

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
January 3rd, 2021
2nd Sunday after Christmas

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

PRELUDE He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child

INTROIT Gloria, Gloria

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, join the search for all God will reveal.

We are the church, committed to an encounter with mystery.

God has sent light to dispel our fears.

The glory of God has risen upon us.

The gospel of Christ reveals God's grace.

We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

We gather together and lift up our eyes.

Our hearts thrill to the sight and our lips rejoice.

Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known.

There is rich variety to meet each one where we are.

The radiance of truth surrounds us.

Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

God beyond our knowing, grant us today new glimpses of who you are and what you intend for us to be. The powers of this earth bow before you in humble adoration. Mighty nations are tiny blips on the screen of your eternity. Our lives are insignificant except as you enlist us to be a part of your eternal purposes. You draw us irresistibly toward the light. We are attracted to your revelation. We need the sense of purpose you engender among us. Come, Holy Mystery, to reveal as much of your truth as we can stretch to understand and receive into our lives. Amen.

*HYMN The First Noel verses 1, 2, 4, 5

#162

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of sovereigns and commoners, we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people than we are with your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth are more real to us than the One who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than for justice for the poor. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Our pursuits do not satisfy; save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives. Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God will judge us with righteousness and deliver us from the oppressive greed to which we have succumbed. The showers of God's blessings will fall on us like rain on newly mown grass. Peace will abound in the hearts of those who give help to the poor and needy. God commissions us, a fellow heirs with Christ, to fulfill the mission given to the saints.

*GLORIA PATRI

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM Love Came Down at Christmas

John Carter

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

*HYMN Break Thou The Bread of Life

315

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6 (p.676); Ephesians 3:1-12 (p. 1065) & Matthew 2:1-12 (p.879)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

#14

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERTINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Infant Holy

*DOXOLOGY

#809

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

We reach for the boundless riches of Christ, even as we give the tithes and offerings we have pledged. An abundance of things does not satisfy, and the wealth of nations cannot buy peace. Therefore, we join our efforts in the church to make a difference in the world, not through instruments of oppression but through the power of love. Employ our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN As With Gladness Men of Old verses 1, 2, 3

#181

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Arise, shine for your light has come.

Take that light into the world and spread it around.

We see more now than when we came together.

We are ready to hear the world's cries and feel its pain.

Your hearts will thrill and rejoice in your Savior.

Give yourselves as servants of the Gospel.

Christ has numbered us among the saints.

We are part of God's eternal purpose.

You are commissioned and empowered to serve.

Look, for the star that will lead you day by day.

In boldness and confidence, we make our witness.

In the strength God supplies, we become helpers of the needy. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *verse 3* **#157**

POSTLUDE As With Gladness Men of Old *P. Manz*

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

VIOLIN & PIANO: Molly & Sally MacGregor

SINGERS Becca Nelson, Lynn Adams, Julie Radke, Tim Delnay, Bill Handy; Diana Mann-Director

VMIX Robert Sanders **SOUND** Joseph Deters

PRODUCERS Lynn Adams

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger

Isaiah 60:1-6

p.676

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:1-12

p. 1065

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery^[b] was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in

Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

p.879

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and

they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

No In-person meetings or events are scheduled for the month of January.

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Alisa Kolwitz
- 7 Peter Bremner & Ross Ruhrman
- 8 Atticus Roman
- 9 Allison Radke & John McFaul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

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The First Noel, the Angel Did Say 162

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about . . . Mt. 1:18

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
 came from coun - try far, to seek for a king was their in -
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and

Refrain

sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No -
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5. Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(Ref.)*
6. Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
 and with his blood our life hath bought. *(Ref.)*

Break Thou the Bread of Life 315

... and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Mk. 6:41

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as thou didst
3. Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me, thy ho - ly
4. O send thy Spir - it, Lord, now un - to me, that he may

break the loaves be - side the sea; be - yond the sa - cred page
bless the bread by Gal - i - lee; then shall all bond-age cease,
Word the truth that sav - eth me; give me to eat and live
touch my eyes and make me see: show me the truth con-cealed

I seek thee, Lord, my spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in all.
with thee a - bove; teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.
with - in thy Word, and in thy Book re - vealed I see thee, Lord.

WORDS: St. 1-2, Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; st. 3-4, Alexander Groves, 1913
MUSIC: William F. Sherwin, 1877

BREAD OF LIFE
6.4.6.4.D.

As with Gladness Men of Old 181

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. Mt. 2:10

1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
 man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore
 rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious
 him whom heaven and earth a - dore, so, may we with
 pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest
 bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven - ly King.
 star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.