

Message

*Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World” #179

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please be mindful of others who continue
to worship through the Postlude.*

Paraments

The **paraments** are purple for Advent, a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) while looking forward to the future reign of Christ. Eschatological expectation rather than personal penitence is the central theme of the season. Advent is the preparation for, rather than a celebration of, Christmas. The liturgical color purple symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ and communal penitence. (ucc.org)

The United Church of Mapleton

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 11th, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Our Mission:

The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.

*The * symbolizes an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

If you are a visitor today, please fill out the welcome card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate later in the service so that we can get to know each other!

Call to Ministry

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Joy

Stan and Linda Whitney

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:22-25

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

One: Jesus you are the tree of life.

Many: We belong to you!

One: The fruit of the Spirit is joy.

Many: Help us to bring joy to the world!

All: O Come, Emmanuel Come!

One: We light the candle of hope.

One: We light the candle of peace.

One: We light the candle of joy.

Hymn

“We Light the Advent Candles” #175

Verses 1, 4

***Call to Worship**

Based on Isaiah 35:1-10

One: Return, return, you always return to us, O God!

Many: You will come and save us!

One: You make a way for us when there is no way.

Many: A way where the redeemed may walk and the ransomed shall sing with joy and gladness!**All: Let us worship God!*****Opening Hymn**

"People Look East" #161

***Prayer of Invocation**

Luke 1:46b-55

Gloria PatriSung a whole step lower than printed in hymnal*

"Glory Be to the Father" #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen, Amen!

***Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God's Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

Invitation to Worship Through Offerings

All adults are invited to share any spare change they may have with the children nearest them so that all may participate in worshiping through the offering.

*Children are invited to place their offering in the offering basket or come to the front of the Sanctuary and place it in the jar. For the month of **December**, the Mission Jar offerings (for both front and back jars) will go to **Cows for Christmas/Heifer International**.*

Offertory***Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Prayer of Dedication*Message for God's Children**

Sunday School for children Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten is available in Classroom A, down the hall from the Sanctuary. Sunday School for 1st – 5th grades is available upstairs in the Youth Room.

All children may remain in their pews during worship, or Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Pre-Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, "The Sunday Paper" coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Sharing Prayer Requests and Praises

You are invited to take a Prayer Requests and Praises sheet from the pew rack in front of you to write your prayer requests and praises. These will be collected momentarily and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer.

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)**Prayers of the People****Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" #478

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSV)

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God!

The United Church of Mapleton

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Today's Worship & Fellowship

Pastor—Ava Adams-Morris
Lay Leader—Laura Fritz
Hospitality Team Lead—Bob and Geri Howieson
Organist/Pianist—Jola Walker
Coffee Fellowship Host—Women's Fellowship

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship
9:00-9:45 a.m. PreK—K Sunday School (*Classroom A—upstairs*)
9:00-9:45 a.m. 1st—5th grade Sunday School (*Youth Room*)
9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 p.m. All Church Christmas Caroling Event
Monday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Saturday, December 17th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties Dance Practice
Sunday, December 18th, 8:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
during worship
Tuesday, December 20th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT
Wednesday, December 21st, 7:00 p.m. Council
Saturday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral need**, please contact Ava Adams-Morris at (507) 380-7233. Ava will be our pulpit supply pastor during our transition time. Thank you Ava!

In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Jackson Foster Care Home
- The local, regional, and national leaders of the church, including all ministers and missionaries
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living, a nursing home, or who are homebound, and all those who are caregivers
- Those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma B., Kathy C., Janie F., Jeannie J., Phyllis L., Tyson Mc. Marian M., Lloyd M., Stan S., Donna W., Rev. Bill B.
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Eli A., Larry B., Jack M., Sean M.
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East



The prayer requests and praises from worship last week were: Prayers:

- For the Bruegger family. Nici's grandfather from Blue Earth, passed away last week.
- For Rev. Brice who will go under hospice care this week
- To remember pearl Harbor and all our military and their sacrifice for our freedoms. God bless them all!

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
Isaiah 2:5

Sunday:

The disciples went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Mark 16:20

Lord, as we go forth today may we spread your word in all that we say and do. May the power of your message not fall upon deaf ears; may we all know that you are God. Amen.

Monday:

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14–15

Source of all wisdom and truth, teach us to sow words of love and peace instead of hate and war in this world that we call home. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves as we seek to do your will. Amen.

Tuesday:

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Romans 11:29

Your gifts to us are plentiful, dear Lord. Help us to use them to praise you and to show the nations that you are Lord of our lives. Amen.

Wednesday:

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

Lord God, help us to never shy away from conversing with you. Prayer is our way to talk with you. May the conversation never end. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

The aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5

O wondrous source of all knowledge and truth, instill in us a love and yearning for all that is of you. Amen.

Friday:

Peace to all of you who are in Christ. 1 Peter 5:14

Prince of peace, whether waking or sleeping, we know that you are with us, sustaining us with your perfect peace. Amen.

Saturday:

Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart. Psalm 73:1

O, God, guide our faith. Show us ways of gratitude and teach us to give to others with pure hearts. Hear our songs of praise. Let us rejoice from our hearts in this most blessed Advent season. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

**The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 11th**

Mission Collection Jars for December: *Heifer International*

The Stewardship Tree

The Stewardship Tree will be available at the back of the Sanctuary until January 1st, 2017. Please take one or more of the leaves home with you.

Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will not be meeting in the month of December. Please join us on Tuesday afternoons, from 1:00—3:00 p.m. starting January 2017.

Poinsettia Plants for Ambience

Please bring your donated poinsettia plants to the church at anytime and place by the altar. Thank you for helping decorate our sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season!

United Church Christmas Caroling—TODAY!

Everyone from the United Church is invited to join together to go Christmas caroling around the community! We will spread the joy of Christmas to the residents of the Mapleton Community Home and The Beacon. Please meet at the church **at 3:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Music Practice

If you are interested in playing/singing with the guitar group for Christmas Eve, please attend practice **Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30 p.m. at the United Church.**

United Church Children's Christmas Program

During worship on **Sunday, December 18th**, all children are **welcome** to participate in the United Church Children's Christmas Program. A practice will be held at the church on **Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions, please contact Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster at 524-2185 or (515) 326-0463. Thank you!

**The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 11th**

Christmas Worship Schedules

The United Church Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held **Saturday, December 24th, 2016, 7:00 p.m.** Communion will be offered and a collection for the **Deacons Fund** will be taken. Worship Service **will not be held Sunday, December 25th** of this year.

Holiday Boxes!

Maple River Loaves & Fishes will be packing **Christmas** food boxes again this year. Please volunteer and stop by **Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m.** at St. Teresa Catholic Church.

For every dollar you donate, Loaves & Fishes is able to by \$10.00 worth of food. Our mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

This Christmas Eve, we will be giving a special offering to Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Items needed are: cereal, crackers, soups, hot cocoa, cookie mix, lasagna noodles, Jell-O, pudding mixes, and personal care items. **When you arrive to service on Christmas Eve, please bring your items to the altar and place in the basket provided by Loaves & Fishes.** Thank you for considering this worthy mission.