

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 18th, 2016

Fourth 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 Love Shubert Family

Scripture Reading John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

One: Jesus, God sent you to show us how to love one another.

Many: Please teach us to how love each other!

One: For when we love each other we are truly your disciples.

Many: Help us to spread your love in the world!

One: We light the candle of hope.

One: We light the candle of peace.

One: We light the candle of joy.

One: We light the candle of love.

All: Emmanuel-God Is With Us!

Hymn

“We Light the Advent Candles” #175

Verses 1, 5

***Call to Worship**

Based on Isaiah 7:10-16

One: Today we have no prophets to reassure us.

Many: We wait for a sign from you O God!

One: It was foretold a young woman will bear a son to save us!

Many: And he will be called Immanuel!

All: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #191

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Gloria Patri**

Sung 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**

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**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #198

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25 (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!

***Closing Hymn**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #185

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

The United Church of Mapleton

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pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Today's Worship & Fellowship

Lay Preacher—Cindy Allevan

Lay Leader—Ginny Kinzie

Hospitality Team Lead—Bruce and Karen Stanton

Organist/Pianist—Ann DeWitz

Program Narrator—Hugo John

Soloist—Pam Foster

Coffee Fellowship Host—Youth Center

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

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

Sunday, December 25th, No Worship Service Scheduled!

Tuesday, December 27th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT

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.
- 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:

- Of healing for Chris McPhal's baby
- For all who travel daily during our Minnesota winters
- For Ron Newell, who suffered a stroke
- For Ken Warner, who had a heart attack

Thanksgiving:

- For our Loaves & Fishes volunteers.



Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Scripture for the Week: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Matthew 3:2

Sunday:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Romans 15:13

Loving God, you are the source of our joy and peace. We believe because of your gift of Jesus Christ and your gift of faith through the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! Amen.

Monday:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David. Luke 1:68–69

Lord God, we rejoice that you sent your son Jesus to redeem our souls. Let us be glad that in this season of Advent you remain present with us, guiding us daily and preparing us for your second coming. Amen.

Tuesday:

Jesus said, “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.” Mark 2:21

Father, when you sent your Son, you sent a new way of life which offers us a life of redemption and salvation. May we live each day in a way that shows that we are redeemed, saved, and loved by you. Amen.

Wednesday:

God, remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago, which you redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage. Psalm 74:2

Great Redeemer, you are the hope of the world and the hope of the church. Remember your faithful people and renew the church so that it may be a true community of faith and a living witness to you. Amen.

Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

Thursday:

Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him? Isaiah 40:13

Dear God, as we await the birth of your Son, Jesus, through this season of Advent, be with us. Help us to be ready to accept you fully into our lives and our hearts. Amen.

Friday:

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

God of mercy and compassion, overflow our lives with your loving presence and wash away all that would keep us from you. Our worship, love, and service we gladly give in return. Amen.

Saturday:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 23:5

Divine Creator, hear our hosannas for your incarnation amongst your creation who shows us perfect grace and love. Leave us not in our feeble and imperfect efforts to follow your will, but lead us toward divine justice, love, and grace. Amen.

Source: Moravian Daily Texts

Continue

The United Church News and Announcements
Sunday, December 18th

Mission Collection Jars for December: *Heifer International*

United Church Children's Christmas Program— Rescheduled!

During worship on **Sunday, January 1st**, all children are **welcome** to participate in the United Church Christmas Program. A dress rehearsal will be held on **Saturday, December 31st at 10:00 a.m. at the church**. Please contact Pam Foster, Christian Education Coordinator at 524-2185, with any questions.

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.

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.

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.

January 2017 Newsletter

Please submit your January newsletter reports into the church office by **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 27th**. Thank you!

2016 Annual Reports

Please submit all annual reports into the church office by, **and no later than, Friday, January 6th, 2017**. Thank you!