

The United Church of Mapleton

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org
secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Our Mission:

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

Order of Worship

Thursday, December 24th, 2015 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

The Alphabet of Christmas

Prelude

Welcome and Invocation

***Call to Worship** *Based on Isaiah 9:2-6, John 1:1-14*

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Many: those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Many: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

One: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Many: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Many: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

One: In him is life,

All: and the life is the light of all people.



Serving Us Christmas Eve:

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Greeters—Hugo and Pat John

Ushers—Diaconate

Communion Servers—Diaconate

Organist/Pianist—Kathy Byram

Christmas Eve Singers—Dawn Dietz, Laura Fritz, Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson

Guitarists—Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson



After a **Musical Offering**, please refrain from applause, which traditionally follows a performance meant for entertainment in our culture, whereas the choir's music is offered to God in a spirit of worship. If you would like to show your appreciation, please say "Amen" after their offering, or thank them individually after worship.

The Alphabet of Christmas was adapted by Rev. Lorrin Radzik from Rev. Erin Klaussen's liturgy available at youngclergywomen.org/the-abcs-of-christmas-a-worship-service.

The *Lighting of the Christ Candle* litany is by Rev. Teri Peterson at clevertitlehere.blogspot.com and is based on Psalm 96.

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**You are always welcome
at The United Church of Mapleton!**

Sunday Service Times:

9:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

10:00am - Coffee in Fellowship Hall

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The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters A – E

*Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #180

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters F – G

*Hymn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #185

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters H – J

*Hymn “Joy to the World!” #179

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters K – M

*Hymn “Away in a Manger” #203

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters N – O

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Christmas Eve Singers and Guitarists

***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**

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters P – S

*Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #182

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters T – U

Communion Service

At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but the Lord’s, and it is open to all of God’s children.

Today, we will participate in communion by passing plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together.

All of our Communion elements are gluten free. During the serving of the bread, Pastor Ashley will walk through the Sanctuary to offer a pastoral blessing if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.

Institution of the Elements

Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Sharing of the Elements Christmas Eve Singers & Guitarists

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters V – X

Lighting the Christ Candle

Pastor: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

One: In the beginning was the Word—
spoken and breathed,
a promise made and kept.

**Many: Glorify the Lord with me—
God’s promise is true!**

One: The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things come into being.

**Many: Eternal and near at hand,
already and not yet,**

God’s promise is the foundation of all life.

One: Glorify the Lord! Jesus Christ is born!

All: The Word is made flesh, giving voice to God’s promise yet again.

The Alphabet of Christmas: Letters Y – Z

*Closing Hymn “Silent Night! Holy Night!” #186

While singing “Silent Night! Holy Night!,” we will light our candles from the light of the Christ Candle. The light will be brought from the Advent Wreath Christ Candle down the center aisle. To light your unlit candle, tip it sideways into the flame to receive the light. In this way, we will pass the light to each other down the pews.

***Benediction**