

**Scripture**        Isaiah 43: 1-10a; Matthew 3:13-17

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!**

### **Message**

#### **\*Renewing Our Baptismal Promises**

*When asked, please bring your bulletins with you to the baptismal font to renew your baptismal promises and then join us in forming a circle around the sanctuary.*

#### **\*Prayer of Recommitment**

**All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, grant us love for others; joy in serving you; peace in disagreement; patience in suffering; kindness toward all people; goodness in fearful time; faithfulness in temptation; gentleness in the face of opposition; and self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen**

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

*“Arise, Your Light is Come!” #231*

*Please refer to announcement half page for song. (verses 1 & 4 only)*

#### **\*Benediction**

One: Baptized to live lives of faith,

**All: we will witness to all God does in our communities, in our midst, in our world.**

One: Baptized to serve,

**All: we will speak up for the voiceless, we will bring justice to those who have none.**

One: Baptized to speak,

**All: we will heal, and not hurt; bless, and not curse.**

One: Baptized to do what is right,

**All: we will not play favorites, but treat all people as your Beloved.**

### **Postlude**

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

## **The United Church of Mapleton**

### **Order of Worship**

Sunday, January 8th, 2017

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 and Announcements**

*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!*

**\*Gathering Song**        “Rejoice in the Lord Always” #650  
*(Sung through 2 times)*

#### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred, fear and death.**

One: In baptism, we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

**All: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, there is no longer male or female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It marks the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: Therefore, on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.**

One: Let us worship God!

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

*“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” #344*

### **\*Claiming Our Brokenness and Assurance**

***All: You would have all people hear of your grace, servant God, but we hinder your efforts by hoarding the word for ourselves. You would have hope flow throughout neighborhoods, but we thwart your plans by damning up hope in our hearts. You would have us skip into your realm, but we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to those grudges we have carried for so long. Have compassion on us Shaker of the Wilderness, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts. Remind us that at our baptism you touch us with the waters of life, promise to be with us always, and call us your beloved, even as you sang your joy to Jesus the Christ, at the waters of the Jordan.***

One: You know the good news....

### **\*Sung Response**

*“Glory Be to the Father” #734*

*Sung a whole step lower than printed in hymnal*

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.

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

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

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

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

***All: And also with you.***

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades is available upstairs in the Youth Room.*

*All children may remain in their pews during worship, use the 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.*

*The Service is piped into the Overflow Room and the Nursery.*

### **Worship with Tithes and 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 **January**, the Mission Jar offerings (for both front and back jars) will go to **The Maple River Youth Center.***

### **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!

#### **\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

***All: By your grace, God of the waters, we can open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine. By your blessing, others are invited to the waters of life. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen***

### **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**

*“Borning Cry” # 680*

## The United Church of Mapleton

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(507) 524-3141  
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pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

Intentional Interim Pastor—Cindy Mueller  
Lay Leader—Darlene Fezler  
Hospitality Team Lead—Bob and Geri Howieson  
Organist/Pianist—Jola Walker  
Coffee Fellowship Host—Women's Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
9:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. PreK—K Sunday School (*Classroom A—upstairs*)  
9:30—10:00 a.m. 1st—5th grade Sunday School (*Youth Room—upstairs*)  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

The **green paraments** symbolize Ordinary Time, which is a continuation of the Season of Epiphany that began the Sunday after Epiphany and ended with Ash Wednesday. Since it explores the mission of the church, the traditional color for this season is green, symbolizing growth. Ordinary Time also focuses on the important issue of how we can continually grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.  
*Information from ucc.org.*

### Contact Information

If you have a **pastoral need**, please contact **Pastor Cindy Mueller**.

### Church Calendar

Monday, January 9th, 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, January 10th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 p.m. Congregational Relations**  
**Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 17th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
**Wednesday, January 18th, 6:30 p.m. Called to Care**  
**Wednesday, January 18th, 7:00 p.m. Council**

### 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 United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 8th, 2017**

**Mission Collection Jars for January: Maple River Youth Center**

**Thank You!**

A thank you is extended out to everyone who helped with all the ministries involved during the United Church Christmas Eve Service! It truly was a special evening in honor of our Lord's birth!

**Installation of Intentional Interim Pastor Cindy Mueller**

On **Sunday, January 15th**, during our worship service, Pastor Cindy Mueller will be installed as the intentional interim of The United Church of Mapleton.

**Congregational Relations**

The Congregational Relations will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Congregational Relations will be held **Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Quilters Group**

Please join us on **Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 from 1:00—3:00 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Mapleton will be held **Sunday, January 15th** immediately following worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

**Heifer International and Retired Ministers/Christmas Fund**

Mission donations for these missions will be extended until **today, Sunday, January 8th, 2017**, due to cancelled services in December.

**Called to Care**

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Wednesday, **January 18th, 6:30 p.m.** New members are welcome at this meeting. Please contact Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168, if you wish to have a Called to Care member visit you. We look forward to and would love to visit with you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, January 8th, 2017**

**Maple River Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

MRLF sent a thank you for the United Church donation of \$110.00 which went directly to sponsoring 3 Christmas boxes for needy families in our area. You may view letter posted on bulletin board.

**Memorial Service for Rev. Bill Brice**

A celebration of life for Rev. William (Bill) Brice will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2601 Blaisdell Ave S., Minneapolis on Saturday, January 21st at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. A Calvary feast will be served following the service.

Rev. Brice served as pastor of the United Church of Mapleton from March 1961—September 1965.

**Maple River Band Boosters**

The Maple River Band Boosters will host their annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast **today, Sunday, January 8th from 8:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon** in the Commons area of the Maple River High School. This is an all-you-can-eat waffles, sausage, syrups and beverages. Tickets are \$7 from a band member or contact 524-3930 at ext. 234, or \$8 at the door.

**Senior Dining and Meals on Wheels of Mapleton**

On-site meals available at the Mapleton Community Center, formerly the Town & Country Leisure Center, Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$4 suggested donation for those 60+; \$7.25 for anyone under 60 years. Call Darlene at Senior Dining 524-4868 to reserve your meal! You may also find and like us at [www.facebook.com/seniornutritionmapletonmn](http://www.facebook.com/seniornutritionmapletonmn).

***Arise, Your Light Is Come!***

1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

### **Sunday:**

Mary said, “He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1:52–53

Creator of all that shall be, we’re blessed by your incarnation. Separated from you, alone and in darkness, we languished until you came, gave us good things, and lifted us up. Comfort us. Set our feet upon the path toward your kingdom. Amen.

### **Monday:**

The eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.

Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

O great Physician of our hearts, our hope is built on your blood and righteousness. Thank you for opening our eyes through the birth of our Savior so that we may see your truth. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. Matthew 9:22

In faith we journey with uncertain steps to greet our Savior and Lord. Jesus is born into our world and meets us wherever we are found. We give thanks that God’s love in Christ heals and saves us. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9

Light of the world, we pause to give you thanks for showing us the image of God through your presence. You lighten our dark world and enrich our lives through the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Continue*

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10

Glorious God, you sent your precious Son to deliver and save us. Your gift of grace enables us to live in your light day by day. Thank you for your blessings and love. Amen.

### **Friday:**

Jesus Christ says, “In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!” John 16:33

Majestic living Water, you have washed us in your saving grace; blessed is your name. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. 2 Corinthians 13:11,13

Almighty Father, we give you thanks for the blessing of another year. We ask for the Spirit to be in us as we start the new year. Thank you for your love, grace, and mercy. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*