The United Church of Mapleton

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Order of Worship

Sunday, December 10, 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.

***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!*

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Opening Prayer

***Gathering Music** *Waiting for You (sung 3 times)* **Words Projected**
Written and sung by Christopher Grundy CLLI#11164320

We are waiting for you. Knowing that You always abide.
We are waking to Your presence
and our hearts are open wide, open wide, open wide.

***Call to Worship**

One: God has done many awesome works.
Mountains have quaked and waters have boiled.
All: We are not impartial witnesses –
we have seen miracles and have not been afraid.
One: God has given us this world, and even as we do wrong to it, we are loved. And we will always have a home with God.
All: We have seen God's patience.
We have felt unconditional love.
One: God works for those who wait and watch for signs, for those who give tirelessly to others, and even to those of us who struggle in trying to live God's word. We have a duty to watch and to wait, we have a responsibility to act, but each day, we have the good fortune to live in the sight of God.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes– Christmas Boxes!

Greetings from Maple River Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf,

First, we want to thank you for your support. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a generous community! Without the support of our local churches, we would not exist.

This past Thanksgiving Loaves and Fishes handed out 144 Thanksgiving boxes. Each box contained a Turkey and all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner. **We will be giving out approx. 160 Christmas boxes this year that will include ham plus all the trimmings for a Christmas dinner**. This will put the total number of holiday boxes distributed at 304— all to local families.

The cost for each box is $40—this brings the total cost of all holiday boxes to $12,160. 100% of all donations goes directly to these boxes and we are supported almost exclusively from the local area.

Please consider sponsoring 1 or more boxes this year.

We will be packing the Christmas boxes at St. Theresa's at 1:30pm Tuesday, December 19th and we could use your help. Distribution will take place between 3:00 and 6:00 pm that same day.

So far this year, Maple River Loaves and Fishes (MRLF) has given out over 150,000 pounds of food to local families in need. The need in our area continues to be great. Remember, for every $1 you donate, we are able to purchase $10 worth of food.

MRLF is located in the back of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton. Our **mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065** / 507-524-3046. Our hours are 3-6pm on Tues. and 9-noon on Saturdays.

Thank you again for your support this holiday season.

Jon Klenk; Executive Director

Today's Worship & Fellowship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*
Lay Reader: *Linda Whitney*
Hospitality Team: *Don & Pam Foster*
Organist: *Jan Lange*
Sound System: *Dick Dietz*
Power Point: *Jay McCutchen*
Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Women's Fellowship*
Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*

The United Church Calendar For this Week

Wed., Thurs., & Fri., 8 a.m.—Noon—church office hours

TODAY	**9:30 am Worship** & Faith Formation for Children & Special Offering
Mon., 12/11	3:30 pm—Women's Fellowship
Tues.,12/12	6:30 am—Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder
	1:00 pm—Quilters Group
Thurs., 12/14	7:30 pm—Bible & Brew at Maggie J's
Fri., 12/15	*2:00—5:00 pm Cindy's Office Hours*
Sat., 12/16	*10:00 am—2:00 pm Cindy's Office Hours*
	9:30—11:30 am Kilties
Sun.,12/17	**9:30 am Worship** & Faith Formation for Children & Special Offering

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Next Week's (12/17) Worship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*
Lay Reader: *Sue Prenzlow*
Hospitality Team: *Patrick Pfeffer Family*
Organist: *Ann DeWitz*
Sound System: *Dick Dietz*
Power Point: *Gary Fritz*
Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Youth Center*
Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*

If you have a Pastoral Emergency or Need

Contact Pastor Cindy Mueller at:
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope and Peace

Leader: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace.

Voice 1: We wait.
We wait –not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here.
We wait because to wait is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

(2 purple Advent candles are lit.)

All: As we light the candle of peace, we remember the stories of times you have been our comfort, when you have heard our cries for justice, for certainty, for peace, and you have led us home; and we know we can trust that you are leading us forward, as we wait for peace to be born, anew, in us.

*** Advent Wreath Song -** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **#154**
(verses 1 & 3 only) **Words Projected**

*** Claiming Our Brokenness**

All: God, we are not all as brave as Mary was. Often we hear your words and we are too afraid to take the gifts you have offered us. They seem too big and we would have to give up so much in order to receive them. We cannot see beyond our own trepidation, we cannot understand how anyone would want to follow such an uncertain path. We seek your blessings, God, but we also seek your understanding if we do not always understand them. There is a balance and we hope to hold it. Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Unconditional Love & Forgiveness**

*** Song** *O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1 & 2 only)* **#182**
Words Projected

Special Offering Video

Offering Our Gifts

*** Song of Thanksgiving** TUNE: Old Hundreth

Hope in the God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose Spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second birth. Amen.

*** Blessing Our Gifts**

All: May our gifts be as generous as your provision for us, O God. Use them to bear witness to the light you sent in Christ Jesus. Move us, and all people, to prayer, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. As we administer these offerings for their best possible return, keep us faithful to your purposes. Amen.

*** Extending the Peace of Christ to One Another**

Faith Forming Moment

Faith Story *Luke 1:26-38*

*** Song** *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* **#176**
Words Projected

Message

Prayers of the People ***Response: Hear our prayer, O God.***

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come your 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 yours in the kingdom,
the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*** Song** *Welcome God's Word* (verses 2 & 4 only)
TUNE: Dix 777777 (*As with Gladness #236)* **Words Projected**

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Crown the Coming One with strength To fulfill God's high intent.
All, throughout earth's breadth and length,
Bow in awed acknowledgment:
Christ is coming soon to reign, Sent to make God's mercy plain.

(Continued on p.4)

Verse 4—*Will we build, at God's command, Genuine community,*
Not the structures of our hands, But a deeper unity?
God's vast love empowers our quest,
As, in Christ, our lives are blessed.

*** Blessing**

Pastor: Rejoice always and pray without ceasing.
Give thanks to God, whatever your circumstances.

All: God has done great things for us.
We rejoice that we are part of God's family.

Pastor: Listen for the word of the prophets.
Be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit.

All: The Spirit of God has come to us.
We have a mission to complete for God.

Pastor: God is faithful and will stand by you.
You are valued in God's covenant community.

All: We are filled with joy as we go out to serve.
We are thankful for the good news we carry. Amen.

***Sung Response** *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise (vs. 1)*
Tune: Ellacombe (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #267) CLLI#11164320
Words Projected

My heart sings out with joy-ful praise to God who rais-es me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my des-ti-ny.
The Ho-ly One, the Liv-ing God, is al-ways full of grace
To those who seek their Mak-er's will in ev-ery time and place.

***Music to Send Us Forth**

In Our Prayers This Week

Members living in Care Facilities:

- *Kathy Cramer, Alberta Samuelson, & Marge Walters*

Prayers

- *For Scott Shuck; Louisa Belle's son - who is recovering from a stroke*