

The United Church of Mapleton

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

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Order of Worship

Sunday, December 17, 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# 11164230

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: Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;

Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

All: We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

One: God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.

God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

All: God strengthens those who are weak.

The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

One: Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

All: Let the heavens proclaim the wonder of God.

Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

The United Church Calendar For this Week

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

TODAY

9:30 am Worship &
Faith Formation for Children & Special Offering

Tues., 12/19 6:30 am—Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder
10:00 am—2:00 pm *Cindy's Office Hours*
1:00 pm—Quilters Group

Wed., 12/20 9:30 am—12:30 pm *Cindy's Office Hours*
10:30 am—Bible Study
7:00 pm—**Council mtg.**

Thurs., 12/21 10:00 am—2:00 pm *Cindy's Office Hours*

Sunday, 12/24 NO MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 pm—Christmas Eve;
Candlelight Carols & Lessons Worship
w/the offering going to Natural Disaster Relief

Next Week's (12/24) Christmas Eve Worship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*

Lay Reader: *Louise Webb*

Organist: *Kathy Byram*

Hospitality Team: *Shubert Family*

Sound System: *Dick Dietz*

Power Point: *Randy Cumming*

Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*



Following the Christmas Eve Service Pastor Cindy will be taking 2 weeks of vacation.

In the case of a Pastoral Emergency or Need during that time Please contact the church office at 507/524-3141.

Maple River Loaves & Fishes- Christmas Boxes!

We will be packing Christmas boxes Tuesday, December 19th, 1:30 pm at St. Teresa's and distributing them from 3:00—6:00 pm.

For more information check the church bulletin board.

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace & Joy



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 Third candle, the candle of Joy.

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.

(Someone lights three Advent candles; two purple and one pink)

All: As we light the candle of joy, we remember the stories of God's loyalty to all creation. We give thanks for the messengers –the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones – present in every age, who bring us the good news of God's restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that joy will be born anew in us.

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

* **Claiming Our Brokenness**

All: Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

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

Offering Our Gifts

(2)

*** Song of Thanksgiving**

TUNE: Old Hundreth

Words Projected

*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: God of blessings, we rejoice as children of grace! We rejoice also for the gifts gathered here this morning, giving thanks for the abundance and generosity that fill your house. We ask that these gifts might be blessed by you to do good in this world. May they bring hope, peace, and joy to those in need. Send these gifts and your people forth into the world to do your will. Amen.

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

*** Song** *O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 3 & 4 only)* **#180**
Words Projected

Faith Forming Moment

Faith Story Luke 1:39-56

Message

***Song** *O Promised One of Israel* **Words Projected**
CCLI # 11164320

Prayers of the People

Response: Hear our prayer, O God.



Lighting the Candle of Love

Leader: And finally, we light the fourth candle, the candle of love. *(Light the last purple candle)*

All: As we light the candle of love we remember the stories of your faithfulness and steadfast love which surrounds us and will not be contained. We trust that you are with us always. As love that bursts forth from all your people, love is born again and again in all creation.

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** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* **#231**
Words Projected

*** Blessing**

***Sung Response** *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise (vs. 1)*

Tune: Ellacombe (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #267) CCLI# 11164230
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**

Today's Worship & Fellowship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: Rev. Cindy Mueller

Lay Reader: Sue Prenzlow

Hospitality Team: Patrick & Marissa Pfeffer Family

Organist: Ann DeWitz

Sound System: Dick Dietz

Power Point: Gary Fritz

Coffee Fellowship Donations: Youth Center

Local Mission Jar: Heifer International



In Our Prayers This Week

Members living in Care Facilities:

• Kathy Cramer, Alberta Samuelson, & Marge Walters

Prayers

- For my great niece Abby (Emmit's sister) for a possible upcoming surgery
- For healing and pain relief for my brother Jim, as he recovers from surgery
- For my dad who is homebound with congestive heart failure
- For Marissa's grandfather who had a stroke
- For Scott Shuck recovering from a stroke
- For Karen Stanton's father