

## The United Church of Mapleton

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### Order of Worship

Sunday, December 31, 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**    *Angels from the Realms of Glory (vs 1 & 4)*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;  
worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly, your prayers attending,  
Christ beside you now draws near. **Refrain**

### \*Call to Worship

One: For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose under heaven:

**All: But now the time has fully come;  
now Christ is born in us.**

One: We are born and we die; we mourn and we dance; We  
plant and we harvest; we speak and we keep silence.

**All: But now the time has fully come;  
now Christ is born in us.**

One: And Love has come to dwell with us, our  
companion between now and forever.

(1)

## Today's Worship & Fellowship Leaders

Guest Pastor: *Jan Wiersma*

Intentional Interim: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*

Lay Reader: *Darlene Fezler*

Hospitality Team: *OPEN*

Organist: *Jola Walker*

Sound System: *Dick Dietz*

Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf*

Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*

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## The United Church Calendar For this Week

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

### **TODAY**

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

*Tues., 1/2*

6:30 am—Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  
1:00 pm—Quilters Group

*Wed., 1/3*

7:00 pm—**Search Committee**

*Sat., 1/6*

9:30—11:30 am Kilties

*Sun., 1/7*

**9:30 am Worship** with Communion, Faith Formation  
for Children, & Loaves & Fishes Collections

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## Next Week's (1/7) Worship Leaders

Guest Preacher: *Blake Couey*

Intentional Interim: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*

Lay Reader: *Sue Prenzlow*

Hospitality Team: *OPEN*

Guitar/Vocals: *Marissa Pfeffer, Laura Fritz, Sheila Samuelson*

Sound System: *Chad Kunkel*

Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Council*

Local Mission Jar: *Youth Center*

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**If you have a Pastoral Emergency or  
Need while Pastor Cindy is on vacation**

please contact the Rev. Dana Mann;  
Pastor of First Congregational UCC in Mankato

### REMINDER...

**All Annual Reports are due into the church office by  
Tuesday, January 2, 2018. THANK YOU!**

## Claiming Our Loss and God's Restoration in Song

One: Join me in claiming our loss and God's restoration in song.

**All: Broken and emptied, healed and filled, we welcome the divine within.**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 3 and 4)*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!*

*So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.*

*No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,*

*Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;*

*Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;*

*O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

## Offering Our Gifts

### \*Singing our Praise to God

*Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)*

Glo-o-o-ria, in excelsis deo; Glo-o-o-ria, in excelsis deo.

### \*Blessing Our Gifts

One: Join me in blessing our gifts

**All: All we have been, all we hope to be, all the days of our lives have yielded joy and sorrow, we offer now to you, in this time beyond time, when the world stands still in contemplation, and your grace unites all people in the common-wealth of love. Amen**

One: Let us extend the Peace of Christ with those among us this day.

## \*Extending the Peace of Christ

### Faith Forming Moment

**Faith Stories Shared** Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:22-40

**\*Song** O, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs 1 and 2) # 190

### Message

### Prayers of the People

Response after each prayer, "**Hear Our Prayer, O God.**"

### The Prayer Jesus Taught

*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 is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**\*Song** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #198

### \*A Blessing

**\*Sung Response** Go, Tell It on the Mountain (vs 3)

**Refrain:**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

**Refrain.**

### \*Postlude

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