

The United Church of Mapleton

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Order of Worship

Sunday, December 3, 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

*Passing the Peace of Christ

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

*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: Today we come together to prepare for Christ's birthday.

All: Today we make ready our welcome for God's only Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

One: We begin this special and holy season of Advent, the season of going toward the birth of Christ.

All: As we renew the special meaning of the Advent season, the season of going toward new hope and eternal life,

One: Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Lord.

All: Let us also honor his birth by adorning our church for the coming of our Ruler. (continued)

(1)

Today's Worship & Fellowship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*

Lay Reader: *Lisa Shubert*

Hospitality Team: *The Bair Family*

Organist: *Guitar Group*

Sound System: *Dick Dietz*

Power Point: *Kathy Cox*

Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Council*

Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*

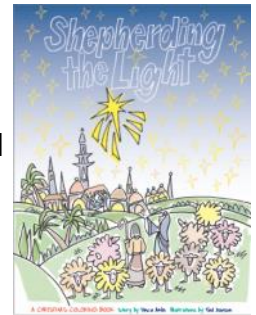
Special Offering Received This Month

Christmas Fund (UCC) and Retired Ministers & Missionaries Fund (ABC) special offering will be received during the month of December. The money received will be divided evenly between our two denominations.

Your offering can be mailed to the church or put in the

small manila envelopes found in the pew racks and placed in the offering basket.

Thank you for your generous gifts!



Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



In Our Prayers This Week

Members living in Care Facilities:

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

Prayers:

- Comfort our brothers and sisters of Egypt in recent terrorist attack killing over 300 worshippers. Bring justice into our world.
- For loved ones on the road

(6)

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

Tune: Ellacombe (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #267)

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.*

The United Church Calendar For this Week

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

TODAY 9:30 am **Worship** / Communion / Hanging of the Greens

10:30 am—**Holy Conversation** -

What adjustments are necessary with a 1/2 time pastor?

Tues., 12/5 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., 12/6 9:30 am—12:30 pm *Cindy's Office Hours*

10:30 am—*Bible Study*

7:00 pm—**Search Committee Mtg.**

Thurs., 12/7 10:00 am—2:00 pm *Cindy's Office Hours*

7:30 pm—Bible & Brew at Maggie J's

Next Week's (12/10) Worship Leaders

Intentional Interim Minister: *Rev. Cindy Mueller*

Lay Reader: *Linda Whitney*

Hospitality Team: **OPEN**

Organist: *Jan Lange*

Sound System: *Dick Dietz*

Power Point: *Jay McCutchen*

Coffee Fellowship Donations: *Women's Fellowship*

Local Mission Jar: *Heifer International*

If you have a Pastoral Emergency or Need

Contact Pastor Cindy Mueller at
pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org

One: Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to the glory of God and the manifestation of God's love through Jesus Christ.

All: For God so loved the world that God gave God's only begotten Son, that whosoever believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

***The Meaning of Today's Service of Hanging the Greens**

***Song** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **Words Projected**

The Bells

The Advent Wreath

Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **Words Projected**

The Wreath

The Candles

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Faith Story *Matthew 24:36-44*

Hanging the Greens

Song *Deck the Halls*

The Poinsettia

Faith Forming Moment *The Legend of the Poinsettia*

The Christmas Tree

Song *O Christmas Tree* **Words Projected**

Placing of the Manger

Song *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* **Words Projected**

Prayers of the People

Response: *Hear our prayer, O God.*

Video "The Advent Conspiracy"

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: Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. Amen.

Holy Communion

Song of Preparation *We Come to Your Feast* **Words Projected**
CCLI# 11164320

We place upon your table a gleaming cloth of white:
the weaving of our stories, the fabric of our lives;
the dreams of those before us, the ancient hopeful cries,
the promise of our future: our needing and our nurture
lie here before our eyes.

**Refrain: We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.**

**We come to your feast, we come to your feast,
with the fruit of the lands and the work of our hands,
we come to your feast**

(verse 2)

We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed;
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we need,
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us,
to love in word and deed. **Refrain**

(verse 3)

We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:
the fruit of human labor, the gift of sun and vine;
we come to taste the presence
of him we claim as Lord, his dying and his living,
his leading and his giving, his love in cup out poured. **Refrain.**

Communion Prayer

One: Sisters and Brothers, the Living God is with us!

All: We lift up our hearts to the Creating Spirit!

One: As a people of compassion, let us give thanks and praise to the Nurturing Love in our midst.

All: As a people of struggle, we raise our voices to join the chorus of the ages in singing endless praise with the very fabric of our lives.

Santos

Words Projected

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, my heart, my heart a-dores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are ho-ly, God

Words of Blessing & Remembrance

Distribution of the Bread & Cup

*Communion is served in the pews today.
All are welcome to participate in this feast. Please hold the bread
& cup until all are served so we might partake as one community.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: We are all amazed at the sustenance of your grace.

All: How can it be that your power expressed itself in the peaceful breathing of a newborn child, in the stumbling's of a toddler, and on the cross as an adult?

One: You wanted to know us.

All: To share our common lot.

One: Our spirit rejoices in God our Savior.

All: Who has regarded the estate of your handmaiden, who has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, who has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich have been sent away empty. You have filled us with the cup of your salvation and the bread of life.

One: All praise be to you, Gracious and Holy God. Amen.

Placing the Rose

Blessing