

Worship Guide

December 26, 2021: First Sunday After Christmas

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Like Joseph and Mary, we want to protect the child Jesus.

P: We want him to be safe and sound.

L: And when something unexpected happens, we are frightened.

P: We wonder what we should have done differently.

L: Lord, in this day, help us to remember that God is ever with us.

P: Let us place our trust in God's loving presence as we grow in our own faith. AMEN.*OPENING HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night. UMH# 239**1 Silent night, holy night!**All is calm, all is bright**round yon virgin mother and child.**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**sleep in heavenly peace,**sleep in heavenly peace.**2 Silent night, holy night!**Shepherds quake at the sight.**Glories stream from heaven afar,**heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!**Christ, the Savior, is born!**Christ, the Savior, is born!**3 Silent night, holy night!**Son of God, love's pure light**radiant beams from thy holy face**with the dawn of redeeming grace,**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**4 Silent night, holy night!**wondrous star, lend the light;**with the angels let us sing,**Alleluia to our King;**Christ the Savior is born,**Christ the Savior is born!*

OPENING PRAYER: Lord, it's only a few days after the Christmas celebration and we are exhausted. People have come and gone; gatherings are winding down; we are being reminded of the "normalcy" of life returning to us. We don't want to go there just yet. We want to linger in the warmth of the season. Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time. Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time. Give us courage to live as people of the Light, those who find your comforting, encouraging presence in our lives at all times. Strengthen us for joyful service in your name. AMEN.



SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-21 & 26

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41 -52

L: The word of God, for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *O Little Town of Bethlehem #230UMH*

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*
2. *For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!*
3. *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*
4. *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!*

MESSAGE: Mothers and Sons

Gene Rouse

SONG BEFORE & AFTER TIME OF PRAYER: *O Lord, Hear Our Prayers#2200TFWS*

O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer When we call, answer us. O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord here our prayer Come and listen to us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (after each time of silence, we'll finish with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you are invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

OFFERING

This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to PO Box 630, Skowhegan, ME 04976. You are also invited to support an organization or church in our local community that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN: *Joy To The World* UMH# 246

*1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

BENEDICTION

As the Son of God came unto the world,
let his brothers and sisters go into the world,
giving thanks for life in word and deed,
and growing in love for God and neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The New HEARTS AND HANDS THRIFT SHOP

Co-Managers: James Barto and Ila Libby

Hours of Operation: Wednesdays 9 AM to 12 PM

*****Call James @ 207-858-0257 to arrange drop off donations or for more information**

CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays 9 AM to NOON and 5 PM to 7 PM

The Donation Bin is now closed to receiving donations.

THE CUP CAFÉ

Our CUP Café is open on Wednesdays 9AM—12 NOON.

Each week we offer a light lunch, lemonade, coffee and snacks. We also have FREE Wi-fi.

FREE DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY MEALS

Our free Drive Thru Community meals are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Our next meal will be on December 28th. Chopsuey, veggies, and dessert. Call 207-474-3915, leave your name and number of meals. Pick up time is between 5pm and 6 pm that evening.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM

Do you or someone you know have need for a wheelchair, walker, crutches, canes, etc.? If so, we have many of these items available through our medical lending program. This is offered by ap-pointment. Call 207-474-3915 and leave your name, phone number, and the item that you need. Someone will contact you. This is an outreach through the partnership of Common Unity Place and Centenary United Methodist Church.

SKOWHEGAN AREA YOUTH GROUP

Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm at Centenary UMC on the Dr. Mann Rd. Snacks and activities provided. For more information, please call Sharon Newell or Kevin Tansey at 207-708-0767 or 207-877-5987.

*If you have unwanted or broken Christmas decorations, please bring them in and drop them off in the Sunday School Room. We will use them for craft projects to sell.

BIBLE STUDY COMING IN JANUARY 2022!

“Behold, I am *COMING SOON*” Rev 22:7

Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Or All you ever wanted to know about the end of time, as prophesized by the prophet John

Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 11:00am in the “Café”

- 1/11 Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?
- 1/18 How Soon is Soon? Or How Can Soon Not Be Soon?
- 1/25 The Players: Good Guys, Bad Guys, Beastie Boys and Girls.
- 1/31 What’s Happening Here? Places and Events.
- 2/15 Are These Sevens Lucky or Unlucky?
- 2/22 What Would Jesus Do, and What Would Jesus Have Us Do
About the End of the World?

Contact John Malek (399-2955) with Questions or to sign up...“Soon!”

*****Pre-Reading the whole Book of Revelation before will help
you understand more*****