

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**December 31, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Father, as I reflect on the things you've done in the past, may my reflection lead to praise and worship. May my reflection point to you. I pray you give me eyes to see your goodness in my life. I pray that I can live out of a place of gratitude, not entitlement. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

“What Child Is This?”

arr. Mary McDonald

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise the Christ-child, the newborn Prince of Peace!

**People: We have been redeemed. We are no longer afraid.**

Leader: Praise to the God who has come to us in the flesh!

**People: We are being created. We are no longer afraid.**

Leader: Praise to the Spirit who calls us together to serve!

**People: We will be sustained. We are no longer afraid**

**ALL: Come, let us worship God!**

### **\*Hymn**

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

#108

## **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

### **\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**Giver of every mercy, you call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. However, we often clothe ourselves with different attire: apathy, hatred, arrogance, and brashness. Help us to bear one another and forgive each other even as we ask forgiveness from you. Help us to don the clothing of love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. This we pray in the name of your Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.** (Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response Hymn** “From Heaven Above” (verse 5) #111

"Glo-ry to God in highest heaven, who un-to us the Christ has given." With  
an-gels sing the Savior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

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**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children's Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Galatians 4:4-7

**Special Music**

“Canon de Noël”

arr. Joseph M. Martin  
Carol Welk, piano solo

**Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:22-40

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

“Just You Wait”

Pastor Steve

## The Response to the Word

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

### **\*Hymn**

“I Danced in the Morning”

#157

### **Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **\*Response** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 4)

#143

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

## The Sending of God's People

\***Closing Hymn** "Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" #546

\***Charge and Blessing**

\***Congregational Response** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (refrain) #136

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - erywhere;  
go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

\***Postlude** "Joy to the World" arr. Diane Bish

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**Pastor:** Steve Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Liturgist:** Joyce Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

*Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to London, OH, in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.*

*Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.*

*Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: "Make me an instrument of your peace."*