



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 ROWE BOULEVARD – ANNAPOLIS, MD – WWW.CALUMC.ORG

DECEMBER 31, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Il Est Né (He Is Born)

Betsy Lord, *organist*

Raymond Haan

THE GREETING & INVOCATION

Pastor: The word became flesh

People: and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy Tischer, *liturgist*

Liturgist: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.

People: Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.

God opens our eyes to see the light.

Let's sing of God's glory and shout our praise!

God has made us heirs of promise.

All: We will praise God's holy name. Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*OPENING HYMN

UMH 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

** Indicates please stand as able in body or spirit.*

*MORNING PRAYER

Holy Living Light of God, you are our Reassuring Presence. Let this assurance grow in our lives each day, so we can be Presence with Assurance to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

† *All may be seated.*

THE NEWS TO KNOW

THE GIFT OF PRESENCE WITH ASSURANCE

Wright Family
Brandon, Jennifer, Steven, Emily

In the Bleak Midwinter

David Lord, *soloist*

Reader: We come giving thanks that the gifts we've been given are the gifts we can give.

People: We open our hearts, readying them for the gift of a New Year!

Reader: The promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light are the gifts of God that we receive.

People: We will use them to reassure those who need to know that they are the recipients of these gifts as well.

Reader: The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things. The gift of love is the clarion call to us as Jesus' disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be. The gift of Christ's light is the reassurance that we are never alone.

People: We light these candles as a sign that we will share our Presence with Assurance in the world.

- Worship Design Studio

In the Bleak Midwinter

(Congregation joins singing)

UMH 221, vs 4

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Nancy Mills, *Dir. of Discipleship*

Children are invited to come forward for a special message. Afterwards, all children are dismissed to Sunday School in Room 214/216 with Ms. Kathryn where parents may pick them up after worship.

ANTHEM

Dave Lord, *soloist*

Behold That Star

Christmas Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING - ISAIAH 62:1-3 (NRSV)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*GOSPEL READING - LUKE 2:22-40 (NRSV)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God.

† All may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Linda W. Motter

The Gift of Presence With Assurance

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE

UMH 220

Angels From the Realms of Glory

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

UMH PGS. 39-43

Baptism of Spencer & Colin O'Neill

Parents: Thomas & Teah O'Neill

Great Grandmother: Garnetta Skordas

PASTORAL PRAYER *with* 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All are invited to give of their morning offerings online at CALUMC.org, in the collection black box in the Narthex, Venmo (@calvaryumcannapolis) or US Postal Service to support the work of Calvary United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ. With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all you have given to us. We ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you, and in giving us the name "Christian." Praise be to you, O God. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 249

There's A Song in the Air

*THE BLESSING & BENEDICTION

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)**

POSTLUDE

Betsy Lord, *organist*

Christians, Be Joyful

J.S. Bach (from *The Christmas Oratorio*)