



*The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary

You're encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

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... light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Advent Reading

Sunday School Children

***Call to Worship**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Let the seas roar and the mountains quake.

Everything came into being through the Word. What came into being was life, and the life was the light for all people.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

The Word became flesh and blood, and lived among us to bring all people to the light.

Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song, singing praises to our God.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Christ, our light, shines forth in glory. Christ, our life, brings grace and truth. Let us worship. Alleluia! (B. J. Beu)

***Opening Prayer**

Incarnate One, we bow before you on this day to celebrate the coming of your presence among us. You are the fulfillment of God's ancient promises, a living testimony to God's faithfulness. We thank you for your life-transforming love: you are a gift of sustenance to souls who hunger and thirst; you are balm to the wounded and strength to the lame; you are the very light of God, shining for all the nations to see. With all creation, we rejoice at your coming, as we worship before your manger/cradle.

***Hymn of Praise**

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

UMH#234

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

All-seeing and all-merciful God, Christmas day always seems to catch us off guard. Instead of moving in concert with the peace of your coming, we have exhausted ourselves dancing to the world's tune. Instead of making time and space for your presence, we have spent our energy on physical, rather than heavenly endeavors. Instead of grasping the awe of your coming, we have allowed sheer busy-ness to batter all wonder from our lives. Forgive us, we pray. In your mercy, help us to reclaim the marvel and mystery of your birth. In your grace, help us encounter you once again in the great rhythms of creation, incarnation, and

salvation. Amen (B. J. Beu)

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH#206

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²^[a]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied exultation;^[b] you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Great will be his authority,^[c] and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-14

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.^[a]

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, [2] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, [4] praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [4]

Reflecting on God’s Message "Let the Manger Speak" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down and paid him homage, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let us follow their example, as we bring our offerings to the Christ child. Offering Prayer O God, in this sacred season, we offer you these treasures from our stores, along with the gift of our hearts. We place these gifts on your altar to help build the kingdom you opened to us on this day of Christ’s birth. We lift our hearts to you, even as we place our lives into your care, as we follow your Son, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Joy to the World" UMH#246

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter



* Valente, Liz. Manger

CHRISTMAS DAY

12.25.2022 | 9:30 AM

*You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song,
and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ.*

Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here!

**Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status,
sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.**