



*New Year's Day Worship
Communion Sunday
January 1st, 2023
10:00 a.m.*

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203
[www.elkriverucc.org /](http://www.elkriverucc.org/)
churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.



We offer worship in-person or via Facebook Live every Sunday at 10am. The recorded broadcast is also available for viewing on our website, following the livestream. You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Please SILENCE cell phones during the service.

The wi-fi password is: stillspeaking1203



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived

For kids: The **PRAYGROUND** is located in the Vestry (the room off of the sanctuary). Also, in the back of the sanctuary, is a table with items and bags for activities appropriate for the kids to work on and play with during the service. Children are welcome to sit at the table or bring the bag back to sit with parents.

Worship January 1, 2023

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are in-person, we invite you to fill out the friendship pad to let us know you are here.

Notes:

* GATHERING HYMN #584 | Am the Light of the World

INTRODUCTION

"I am the light of the world!

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!"

If you fol-low and love you'll

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

1	When the	song	of the an-	gels is	stilled,	when the
2	To find	the lost	and lone-	ly one,	to	to
3	To free	the pris-	oner from	all chains,	to	to
4	To bring	hope	to ev-	ery task	you do,	to

star in the sky is gone,
 heal the bro-ken soul with love,
 make the pow-er-ful care,
 dance at a ba-by's new birth,

When the
 To re-
 To

sag-es and the shep-herds have found their way home,
 feed the hun-gry chil-dren with warmth and good food,
 build the na-tions with strength of good will,
 make mu-sic in . . . an old per-son's heart,

the
 To
 to
 and

Return to ♪

work of Christ-mas is be-gun:
 feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!
 see all God's chil-dren ev-ery-where!
 sing to the col-ors of the earth!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (UCCanada Book of Worship)

One: A star shining brightly in the East,

All: discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

One: A journey into the unknown territory,

All: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

One: An encounter with an evil presence,

All: evil faced, yet resisted with care.

One: The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origins,

All: the glory and the gifts given, to God's Chosen Child.

One: Let us worship our God!

All: Eternal God, radiant with grace, thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits; make us shine with your Word, our hope; shine with your communion, our life; shine with your peace, our joy; through Christ, who is our Light. Amen.

* HYMN #146 Glad Tidings

1 Nu - o - li! nu - o - li! he nu ka - ma - ha'o!
 1 Glad tid - ings! glad tid - ings! O won - der - ful love!
 2 Nu - o - li! nu - o - li! ua pi - li ia nu
 3 Nu - o - li! nu - o - li! hau - o - li ou - kou,

He nu no ke o - la mai lu - na mai no,
 A mes - sage has come from the an - gels a - bove:
 Ika po'e i - li - hu - ne, ka po - e lu'u - lu'u,
 Ka po'e a - ka - hai, a ha'a - ha'a ka na - au;

No ka - na - ka nu - i, no ka - ma - li'i nei,
 Good news of great joy comes to young and to old,
 Ne'e mai a pau - le - le, ha - hai ia Ie - su,
 Na Ie - su e ka - la a ho'o - ha - nau hou,

A oi ka na - ni i ke gu - la a'i - a'i.
 For Je - sus brings mer - cy more pre - cious than gold.
 A pau no ka hu - ne, a ma - ha ou - kou.
 A ka'i mai nei a'e i ka na - ni ma - o.

Refrain

Nu o - li! nu o - li! nu ka - ma - ha'o!
Glad tid - ings, glad tid - ings! O won - der - ful,
Nu - o - li! nu - o - li! Nu - o - li! nu - o - li!
Glad tid - ings, glad tid - ings, glad tid - ings, glad tid - ings!

Ka - ma - ha'o! ka - ma - ha'o! e! Nu o - li! nu
won - der - ful, won - der - ful love! Glad tid - ings, glad
Nu - o - li! nu - o - li! Nu -
Glad tid - ings, glad tid - ings, glad

o - li! He nu no ke o - la, e hau - 'o - li e!
tid - ings! We hail the glad tid - ings of won - der - ful love.
o - li! nu - o - li

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,

stormy wind that does what God says!

Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,

fruit trees, and every single cedar!

Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—

you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,

you princes and every single ruler on earth!

Do the same, you young men—young women too!—

you who are old together with you who are young!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name

because only God's name is high over all.

Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

God raised the strength of his people,

the praise of all his faithful ones—

that's the Israelites,

the people who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.

I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.

He also says, *I will rely on him.*

And also, *Here I am with the children whom God has given to me.*

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he also shared the same things in the same way. He did this to destroy the one who holds the power over death—the devil—by dying. He set free those who were held in slavery their entire lives by their fear of death. Of course, he isn't trying to help angels, but rather he's helping Abraham's descendants. Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way. This was so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to wipe away the sins of the people. He's able to help those who are being tempted, since he himself experienced suffering when he was tempted.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

Deb Kopperud

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of Epiphany, we long to hear your holy Word in fresh ways. Open our ears to the call of your voice, Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day. Fill us with anticipation for your future. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Sheri Nelson

HYMN #138 Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

1 Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good, was hum - bly
2 "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried your
3 "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave you my
4 "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I gave you my

born in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts a -
moth - er up - hill and down, I car - ried your moth - er to
man - ger for your bed, I gave my hay to
wool for a blan - ket warm, you wore my coat on

round him stood, Je - sus our broth - er, strong and good.
Beth - le - hem town; I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
pil - low your head; I," said the cow, all white and red.
Christ - mas morn; I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.

5 "I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high,
"I cooed you to sleep that you should
not cry,
we cooed you to sleep, my love and I;
I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high.

6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el,
the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Notes:

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6: 9-13 Common English Bible (adapt.)

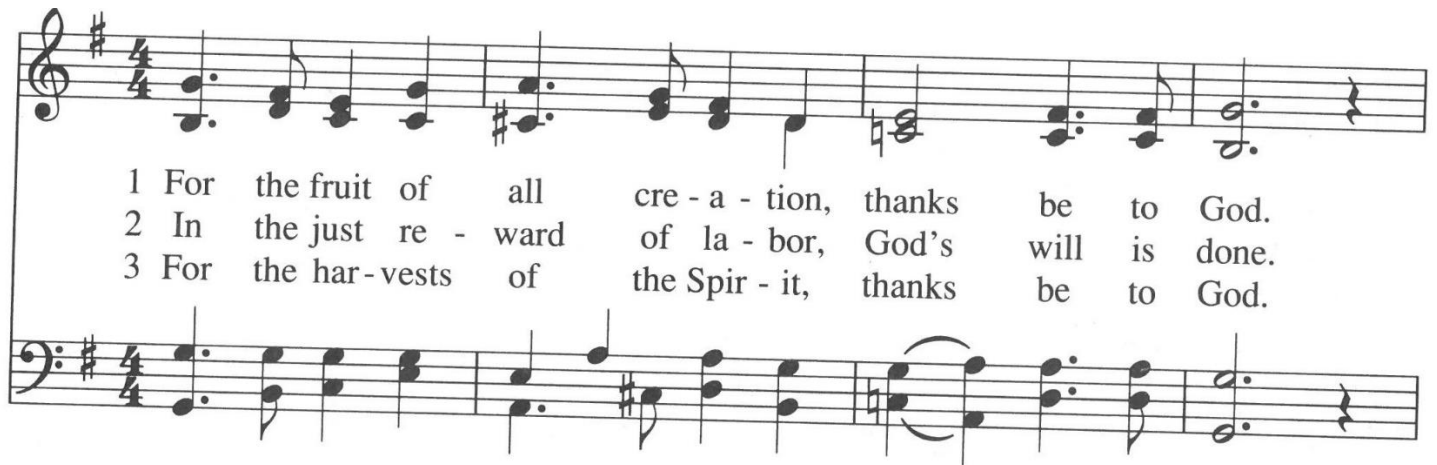
Our Father/Mother who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kin-dom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. And do not lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. Amen.

PRESENTATIONS OF GIFTS


Though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer ourselves and what we have.

The story continues, Good News abounds.

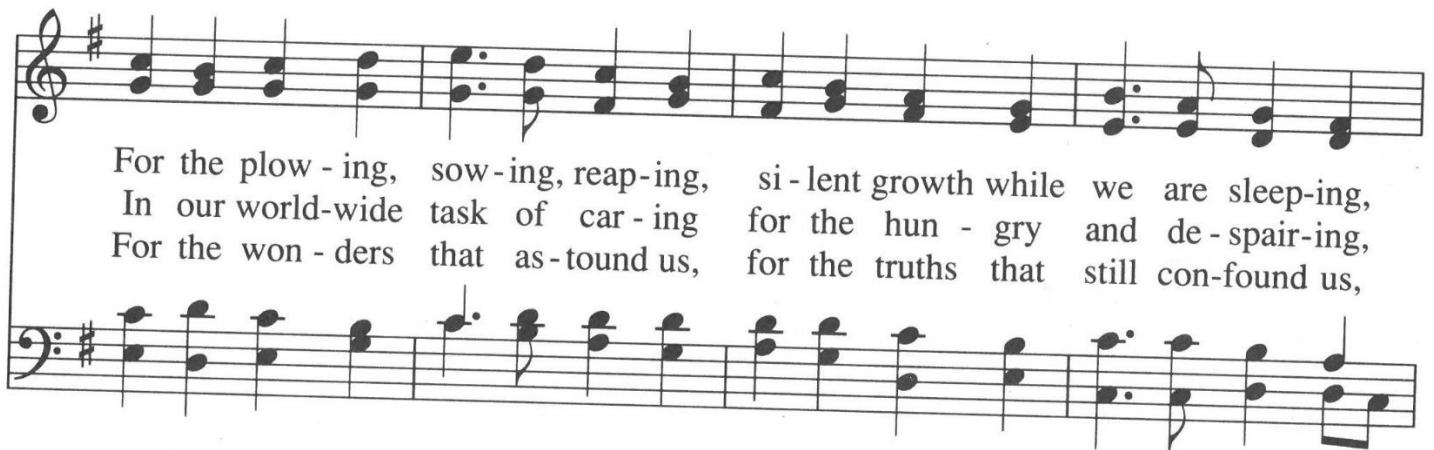
*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #425 For the Fruit of All Creation



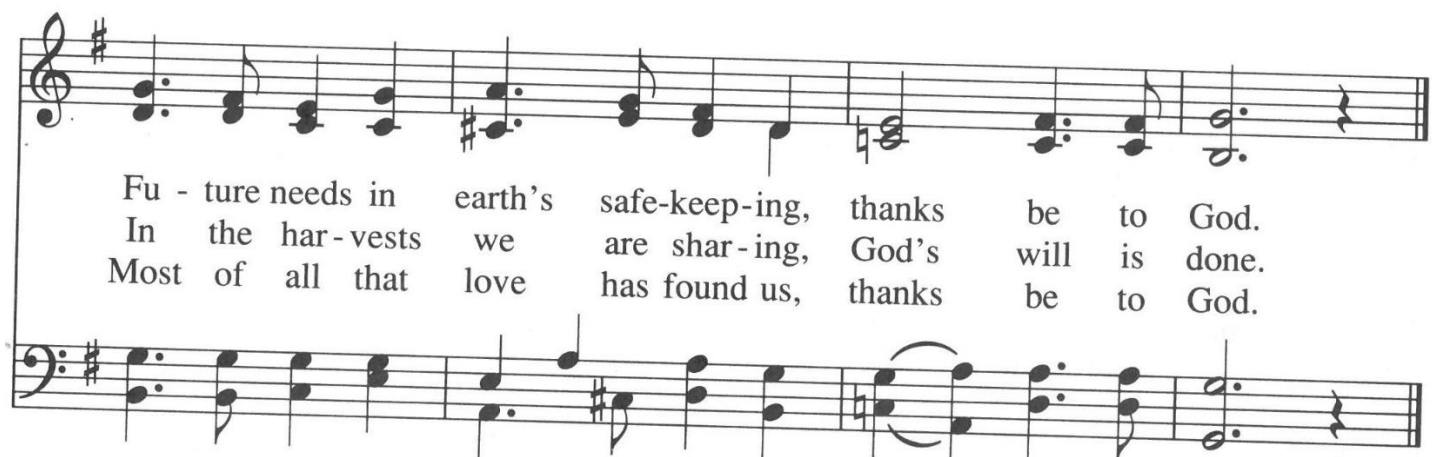
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION (UCCanada Book of Worship, adapt.)

We now enter a time of Holy Communion that for us in the United Church of Christ is set for all: intergenerational, inter-faith, gender identity and preferences on the circle of being, political and ethical-differences. God of the Human Spirit lives in us all in ways unique to individuals who share a meal in a Spirit of Love.

One: The Spirit of God be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts;

All: We lift them to God within us and around us.

One: Give thanks to our God!

All: All our thanks, all our praise!

Before all that is, You were God.

Outside all we know, You are God.

After all is finished, You will be God.

Archangels sound the trumpets,

Angels teach us their song,

Saints pull us into your presence.

You beyond the galaxies,

You under the oceans,

You inside the leaves,

You pouring down rain,

You feeding the insects,

You giving us your image,

You carrying us through the waters,

You holding us in the night,

Your smile on Sarah, Abraham, and Hagar,

Your hand with Moses and Miriam,

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah,

You lived as Jesus among us,

Healing, teaching, dying, rising,

Inviting us all to your feast.

Prayer of Blessing

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit.
Enliven this bread,
Awaken our bodies,
Pour us out for each other.
Transfigure our minds,
Ignite your church,
Nourish the life of the earth,
Make us, while many, united,
Make us, though broken, whole,
Make us, despite death, alive.

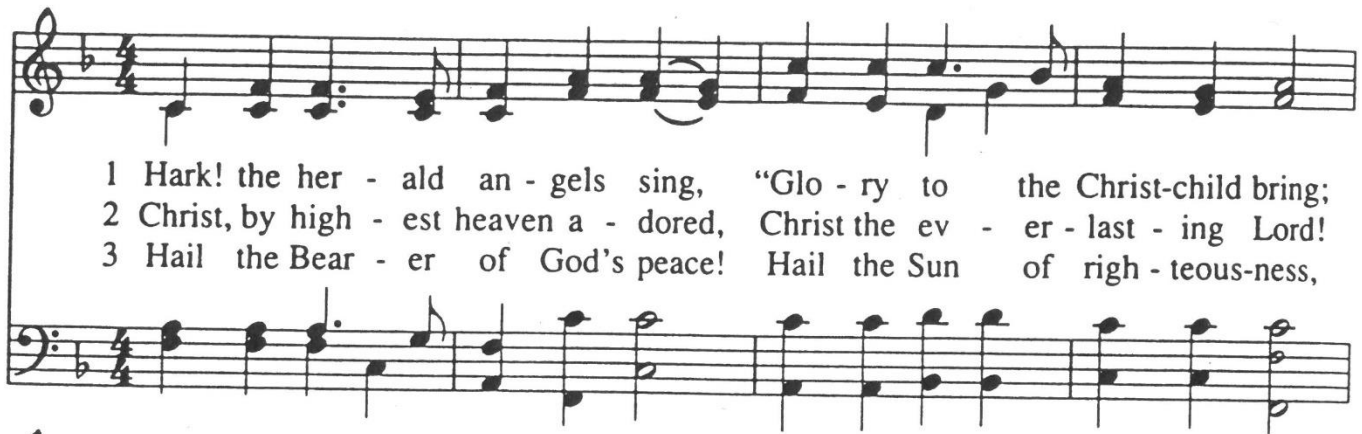
Prayer of Gratitude (Natalie Regoli, Connect Us, 2019, adapt.)

O God, who in six days made Heaven and Earth, and gave Earth to Your children for safekeeping, we make this prayer to You to guard, enlighten and inspire our minds and our bodies so that we are fit for this great task. We recognize how often our sins have contributed to the destruction of this wonderful gift that You have given us. Let us now resolve to work to keep our soul, our body, and all that surrounds us unspoiled and a garden worthy of Your majesty. Amen.

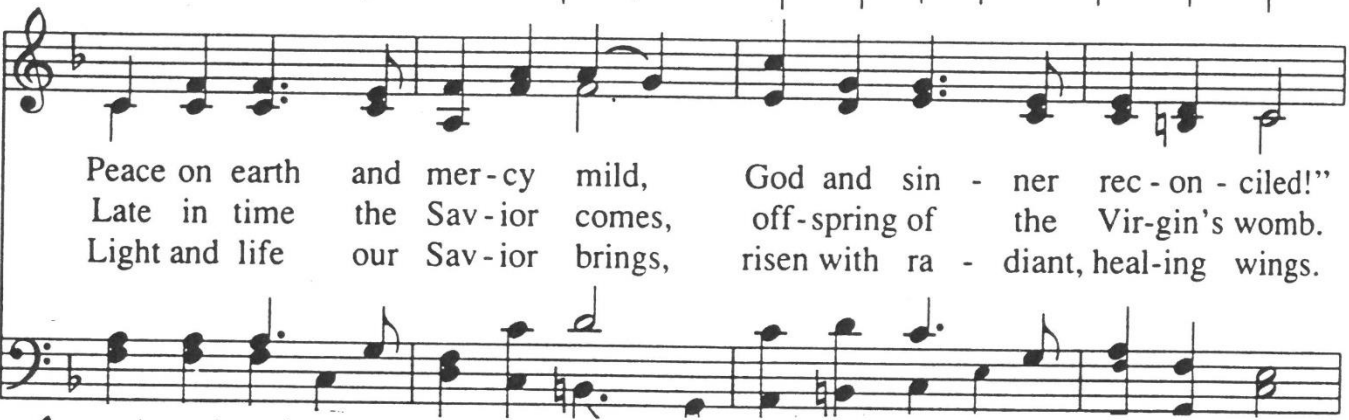
Sharing the elements

One: These are the gifts of God, for you, the people of God. Come, for all is ready.

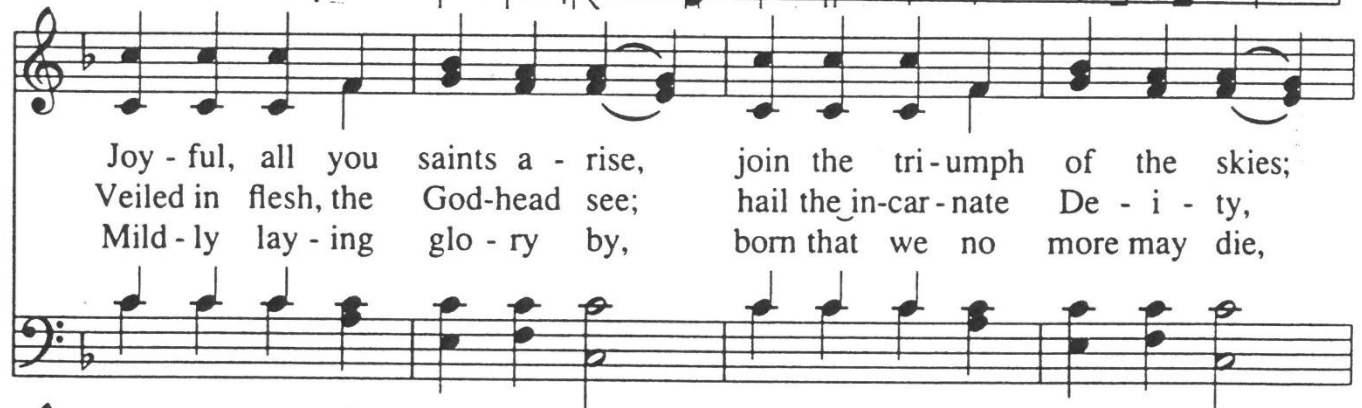
*HYMN #144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



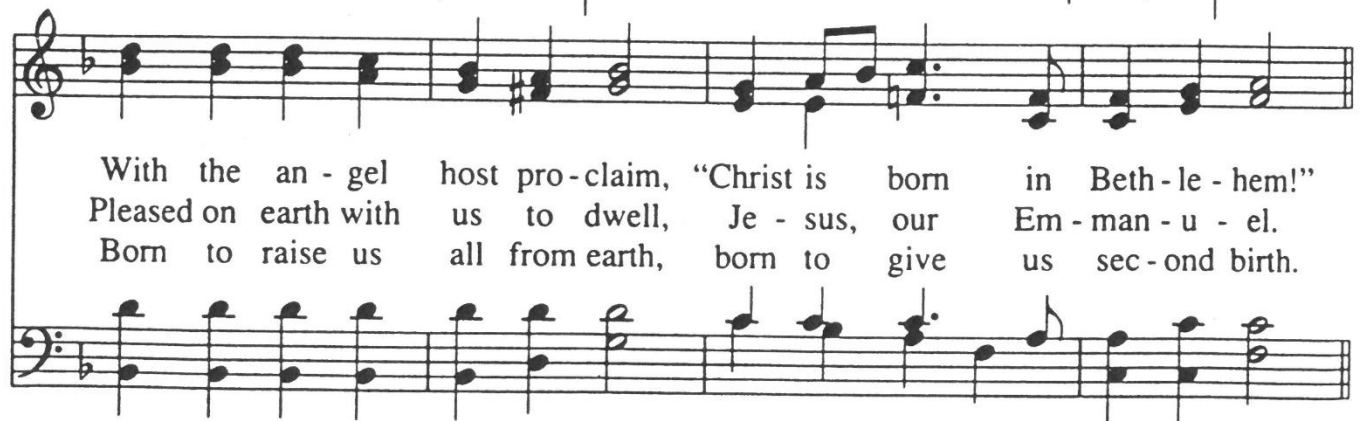
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.



Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

***SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Bridge Pastor: Rev. Sheri Nelson
Office Administrator & Virtual Production: Giuliana Beckwith
Piano & Senior Choir/Handbell Director: Carson Schneider
Piano Alternate: Deb Kopperud
Deacon: Lisa Cawthra
Liturgist: John Olson
Greeter/Usher: Bev & Don Putnam
Sound: Keith Stevens
Sunday School: Amanda Hooper
Hospitality: Mary Martha Group & Art Bright

Acknowledgements

All re-printed music is licensed under CCLI 11010370

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

Office Hours

Office hours for the church are Sunday 9:00am to 1:00pm before and after worship, Monday/Wednesday 8:00am-2:00pm, and Thurs. 8:00am-3:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions. If you need immediate assistance outside of office hours, please email - churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please contact Patti Kubicka via text or call at 763-498-1196. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

HOLDING IN PRAYER

(Cards and calls are appreciated)

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Nancy Hassett, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Judy Halgren, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Joan Axen, Marv and Nancy Andersen, Laurie Lazaretti, and Jim Kopperud, Tony Rohs.

Reminder: Cards are available in the church office.

Member Directory:

The current online member directory is available on our website at <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/elkriverucc/login>.

The password is case sensitive: BeTheChurch

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, January 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person
and live via Facebook with
Rev. Sheri Nelson

Communion Sunday

Hospitality by Mary Martha Group
& Art Bright

Tuesday, January 3, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 4, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne
County Gov't center
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 5, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Saturday, January 7, 2022

12:00 p.m. Giuliana Family Event

Sunday, January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person
and live via Facebook with
Rev. Sheri Nelson

CAER Offering

Hospitality by Diaconate

Tuesday, January 10, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 11, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne
County Gov't center
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 12, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles
1:00 p.m. Outreach & Justice
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, January 13, 2022

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts



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CHRIST