

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP



*Gathering as  
God’s people  
inspired to live as  
a community  
of Christ*

+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal    FWS – The Faith We Sing

You are invited to respond with the **Boldface** responses.

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

God of every blessing, we rejoice that you have  
chosen us from long ago, adopted us as your beloved  
children, and gathered us into your presence.  
Now make known in our hearts and lives your eternal  
purpose for heaven and earth so that we may live,  
this day and always,  
for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC. *Carolyn Brown*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.”*

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 219*  
*What Child Is This, v. 1*

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is  
sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the  
babe, the son of Mary.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*  
Darkness is not limited to night skies;  
darkness invades our spirits and our souls.  
**In darkness of doubt and despair we have lived, until  
we witnessed the birth of the Savior.**  
Now the light has truly come to us!  
**Darkness has been banished away!**  
Arise! Shine! For the Light of God’s love has come!  
**And we shall be led to that Light in joy and  
celebration.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 245*  
*The First Noel*

## THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Ephesians 1:3-14*

LITANY OF CONFESSION *Responsively*  
The Light comes to the world:  
**Our eyes, most comfortable with the darkness,  
reddened from long searching, burn and squint.  
We twist away and do not answer.**  
The Light comes to our lives:  
**Shivering without warmth, preferring loneliness to  
the effort of asking for someone to listen, we twist  
away and do not answer.**  
The Light comes to touch our bodies and our minds and  
our spirits:  
**But we are lost in the search for explanation, living  
in our worlds of reason and proof.  
Our bodies give us away to the truth of our isolation.**  
Calling our names, the Light comes:  
**Preferring to hear it as the winter snow crunching  
beneath our feet we turn away, shoulders around our  
ears as protection from the blowing chill, and do not  
answer.**

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Pastor*  
We have seen the Light.  
We have heard the call.  
We will celebrate the warmth of the Light with our  
God.  
**Amen.**

RESPONSE *UMH 216*  
*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming, v. 3*  
**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness  
fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness  
everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and  
death now save us, and share our every load.**

## THE CHURCH WORSHIPS BY GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE *UMH 234*  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 3*  
**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all  
ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory  
in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come,  
let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*The Children are invited to Wiggletime*

## THE CHURCH LISTENS

WIGGLETIME *...then, it's off to Children's Church*  
ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*  
THE WORD  
SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*  
PIANO SOLO *Carolyn Brown*

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## THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION

### COMMUNION INVITATION *Responsively*

My friends, families sit around a table to share news from the day, concerns about life, and stories they have heard. I invite you now to come to this table with the great family of creation to share the day, to listen to and experience God's story. It's a special table because it is big enough for all. It's a special table because it is made from the stuff of the earth: wood and ore, grain and fruit, all gifts from God.

Most of all, it's a special table because Jesus is here.

Let us share God's story.

**Holy God, there is no other God.**

**Bless the One who comes to us in God's name.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Jesus took bread and wine, the simplest of food, blessed it and held it, broke it, and shared it with people like us. Come, eat, and drink and belong to God's new community.

### COMMUNION PRAYER *Responsively*

Come, Spirit, and set this bread and wine apart. As we share it here today it becomes for us, not just as a snack and a small trifling, but the feast of love and the full story of your way. Then, as young, and old, we all become your family gathered, and no one is forgotten.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

My treasured family of God, let us enjoy this meal together in the Spirit of God's enduring love and compassion. And as Jesus taught us, let us pray:

**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.**

## BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

## RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*As you move forward to receive the bread and cup, pray for those around you, and after you've received the elements, you're welcome to stand or kneel at the Chancel in personal prayer.*

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## THE CHURCH SCATTERS AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

### +HYMN OF COMMITMENT *UMH 240*

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

### +SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*

*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."*

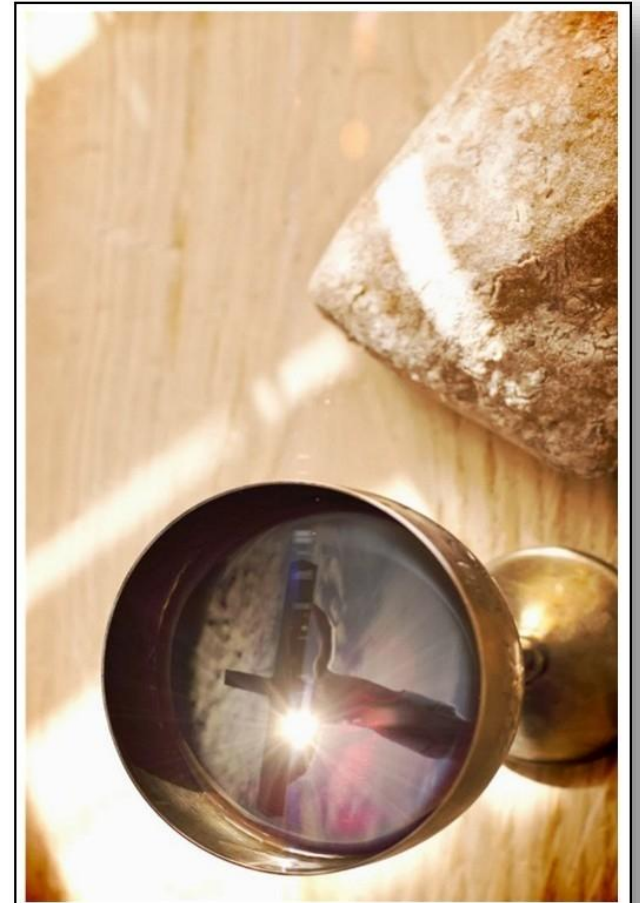
### +PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Responsively*

Gracious God, Source of love and of every good gift, we thank you for this moment of sharing with the family of God. We thank you for mending our brokenness and for filling us with your life and grace that binds us together in your name. Thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven and sharing with us your cup of blessings.

**Nourished by your Spirit, send us into this new year with our faith renewed and with a willingness to work at being the family of God you intend us to be. Thank you for Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### +POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.



Where hearts, minds, and doors are open!

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First Sunday after Epiphany

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