

Welcome to Worship!

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2017



What could your Christmas season experience be like if you slowed down and lived it looking through the framework of the sacred?



First United Methodist Church

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Helping People 'Say Yes' to God

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pastor's Email: marianne@wisconsinumc.org Cell: (608) 843-9641

Welcome to worship at First UMC Baraboo. Our mission is 'Helping people 'Say Yes' to God. "Do no harm, do all the good you can and stay in love with God" are the three simple rules we seek to live by. As you wait for worship to begin, please sign the pew pad register. If you are a first time guest, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew racks. If you have a joy or concern today, fill out one of the cards provided and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. Children are always welcome in worship; 'busy bags' are available just outside the door to fellowship hall. Our staffed nursery is available for children infants thru age five.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ~ Romans 13:11

Prelude

Barb Kell, Worship Musician

Ring of the Bell / Welcome

†Passing of the Peace

Ring of the Chimes

Introit

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Responsive Reading for Advent

by C. Buchner Flygt

In this season of Hope

Take time

To feel the Sacred

To look for the holy

To experience JOY

In this season of celebration

Take time

To notice the beauty

To see the light

To inhale the aroma

To absorb the love

Do not rush through these moments

In this time of expectant waiting

Take time to listen

Take time to seek

Take time to live

Take time to be (surprised)

Children's Message

Special Music

“Were You There on That Christmas Night”

(Natalie Sleeth)

Vocal Choir, directed by Charlene Flygt

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God Who Gave Us Birth, in this time of preparing we struggle to make time for your coming. When there are presents to get, we forget your presence among us. With “so much” to do, we forget the mystery of your Being and the miracle of our being avenues of your grace. Slow us down. Loosen us up. Let us laugh at ourselves more freely and love each other more generously. In the midst of the tinsel and the hurry, help us to see the twinkling joy. In the name of the One whose Being Blesses Humanity. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Beloved hear the words of grace: the glory of God shone around the shepherds on a “normal” night. The angel telling them not to fear spoke in the middle of a regular workweek. Love comes to us that our lives may become God-stained with joy. Let us rejoice, truly believing we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Reading from the Christian Scripture

Romans 13:11-14

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 3:1-12

These are the sacred words of scripture.

Thanks be to God for the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ!

†Hymn

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

The U.M. Hymnal #196

Sermon

“Sacred Time”

Offering

“If this Child Were Born Today”

(Berta Poorman and Sonja Poorman), *Vocal Choir*

†Offering Response

“Song of Advent”
(C. Buckner Flygt)
Vocal Choir

†Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We now dedicate these gifts, setting them apart for the work of this church in the world. May these offerings be used to build awareness of, and respect, for all that is sacred. Amen.

Ritual of Holy Communion (see Insert)

All are welcome to receive Communion; you do not need to be a member of this church or a member of the United Methodist Church. This is the Lord’s Table; he is the host and we are all his guests. At the direction of the ushers you will be invited to come forward, and you will be given a piece of bread and a small cup of grape juice. Those in the balcony will be served first. Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats using the side aisles. Gluten free communion wafers are available upon request.

Closing Prayer

†Hymn

“In His Time”
The Faith We Sing #2203

†Benediction

†Ringing of the Chimes

†Postlude

During the Advent season, all announcements will be presented in written form in the bulletin. Please send your information for the Sunday bulletin and weekly email update by Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

† = Please rise if you are able

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Pastor	Marianne Cotter
Liturgist	Laurie Willhouse
Church Opener	Alice Schellenberger
Greeter(s)	Rajeane Bender
Usher(s)	Gary & Jacki Crawford
A/V Powerpoint & Booth	Mike Hanson & Alice Schellenberger
Worship Music	Barb Kell
Choir Director	Charlene Flygt

Thank you to The Band and The Choir for today’s special music!