

Welcome to Worship!

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2017

10:30am



Sacred Being

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. 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 through age five.

Prelude

Charlene Flygt, Worship Musician

Ringling of the Bell / Welcome

Ringling of the Chimes

†Call to Worship for the Sacred Season of 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).

†Hymn

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

The Faith We Sing #2128, Verses 1 & 2

Children's Message

Silence

Prayer before the Scriptures are Read

Lord, may your sacred scripture be our delight. May we praise you for the wisdom we discover in these sacred books. Help us to listen to the voice of your spirit, refreshing us as we consider your words today. Amen.

The Story of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Thanks be to God for the sacred words of scripture:

Let it be with me according to your word.

Silence

Advent Prayer

God, who are the Most High Lord of all, you have a surprising preference for people who are small and humble and who expect everything from you. You chose Mary, the unassuming virgin from Nazareth, to become the mother of your Son Jesus.

Through your Holy Spirit make us aware of the poverty of our hearts, that we may be open to you and welcome you, be ready, like Mary, to serve you and your plans, and expect everything from you. Come to us and give yourself to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 2:1-7

Thanks be to God for the sacred words of scripture:

Let it be with me according to your word.

Guided Meditation/Prayer

Pastor Marianne

Special Music

by *Samuel Cotter*

Offering

†Offering Response (see insert) “Song of Advent” (C. Buchner Flygt)

†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.

†Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

The U.M. Hymnal #229

Scripture Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Thanks be to God for the sacred words of scripture:

Let it be with me according to your word.

Call to Confession

God’s mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God’s grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Silence

Prayer of Confession (Nathan Decker)

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the cries of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, Free us from our captivity, Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Christ was born to save! God forgives every sin. What a present! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

†Hymn of Preparation “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” (insert)

Celebration of Holy Communion (see insert)

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you truly are Immanuel “God with us”. In this season of hope, may the meal we’ve shared together nourish us in the sacred task of being your body in the world, your kingdom come, your will done on earth as it is in heaven. With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises, Glory to God in the highest. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

*After you share a joy or concern, you are invited to add “**God of healing**” or “**God of celebration**” or use other appropriate wording and then the congregation will respond, “Hear our prayer!”*

Closing Prayer

†Hymn

“Love Came Down at Christmas”
The U.M. Hymnal #242

†Benediction / Ringing of the Chimes

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Pastor	Marianne Cotter
Liturgist	Alice Schellenberger
Church Opener	Judy Ellington
Greeter(s)	Gladys Orton
Usher(s)	Pete & Kim Shrake
A/V Powerpoint & Booth	Mike Hanson & Jerry Jackson
Worship Music	Charlene Flygt