

# *Welcome to Worship!*

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

4:00pm



Sacred Knowing

*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](mailto:marianne@wisconsinumc.org) Cell: (608) 843-9641

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*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 5.*

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### Prelude and Lighting of the Advent Candles

*Becky Hovde, Worship Musician*

*As you enter the sanctuary, you will be given a candle to light at the end of worship, when the hymn "Silent Night" is sung. Battery operated candles are available for younger children.*

### Welcome

### † Ringing of the Chimes

### † Call to Worship for Christmas Eve

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **And also with you.**

Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the Son of God is born this night.

### **The Word has been made flesh among us.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

### **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.**

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### **He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.**

### † Lighting of the Christ Candle

Tonight is the night for which we have all been waiting. Our Advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle.

**With the birth of Jesus, our lives have been forever changed. We are transformed by his model and message. We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the center of our lives.**

*(Christ candle is lit)*

†Sharing a Christmas Greeting

†Hymn

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”  
(with volunteer Hand Bells)

*Chorus:*

**Go tell it on the mountains,  
O-ver the hills and ev-ry-where;  
Go tell it on the mountains  
That Je-sus Christ is born.**

**When I was a seek-er  
I sought both night and day;  
I asked the Lord to help me,  
And He showed me the way.**

*(repeat chorus)*

**In the time of Da-vid  
Some said he was a king,  
And if a child is true born,  
The Lord will hear him sing.**

*(repeat chorus)*

Children’s Message

Responsive Christmas Prayer (Robert Louis Stevenson, adapted)

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

**Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.**

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.**

May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children,

**and Christmas evening bring us to evening’s rest with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reading from the Christian Scripture

Luke 2:1—20

These are the sacred words of scripture.

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

†Hymn

“The First Noel”  
*The U.M. Hymnal #245*  
*Verses 1, 2, & 3*

Christmas Message

“Sacred Knowing”

Offering

*If you would like your offering to go to “God’s Loving Arms” please use the envelope provided in this bulletin. All other offerings will be used for the ministry of First United Methodist Church.*

†Offering Response

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*The U.M. Hymnal #221*

*Verse 4*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a Wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication (spoken by Liturgist)

God of Grace, this season is so focused on shopping and finding the right gift. Now on this Christmas Eve, we remember that all our giving has its foundation in the amazing gift you gave to us: putting on flesh and coming in the form of a child, Emmanuel, God with us! May what we give tonight be bathed in the knowledge that yours is the most perfect gift and the one we need the most. We pray in the holy name of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn (please remain seated)

“Silent night”

*The U.M. Hymnal #239*

*As the light of Christ is passed throughout the congregation, please observe this simple safety rule. Dip your unlit candle into the flame of the candle of your neighbor. Then, hold your lit candle upright and still, allowing your neighbor on the other side of you to light his/her candle from your lit one.*

†Benediction

†Ring(s) of the Chimes

†Postlude

† = Please rise if you are able

**SERVING YOU TODAY...**

- Pastor ..... Marianne Cotter
- Liturgist ..... Rajean Bender
- Church Opener ..... Jim Cotter
- Greeter(s) ..... Kristen & Bryan Philipp
- Usher(s) ..... Kandie Beckwith & Tim O’Keefe
- Worship Music ..... Becky Hovde