

# *Welcome to Worship!*

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

7:00pm



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**

615 Broadway St. Baraboo, WI 53913

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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

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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

*Charlene Flygt, Worship Musician*

Ringling of the Chimes

Special Music

*"Birthday of a King"  
Ellie Kennedy, Vocalist*

Welcome

†Lighting of the Christ Candle

Come Lord Jesus has been our Advent Prayer,

**Now the night we have waited for has arrived.**

In this sacred moment we now light the Christ candle,

**representing the coming of Christ to the world.**

*(Christ candle is lit)*

We hear the angel voices sing

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all the peoples of the earth!**

†Hymn

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"  
The U.M. Hymnal #240*

Children's Message

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Prayer of Confession (inspired by Isaiah 9:2-7)

**Mighty God, we confess that we have walked in darkness for too long. We carry the yoke of guilt and we have felt the sting of the rod of sin and oppression. Wonderful Counselor, guide us to walk in your light. Free us from our burdens, and establish your peace in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Special Music

“Where you there on that Christmas Night?” (Natalie Sleeth)  
*Vocal Choir with Samuel Cotter, piano*

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

“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks by Night”  
*The U.M. Hymnal #236*  
*Verses 1, 2, 3, & 4*

Sermon

“Sacred Knowing”

Offering

“Gesù, Bambino” (Pietro Yon)  
*Rex Flygt and John Ellington, duet*  
*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)

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn (please remain seated)

“Silent Night”

*The U.M. Hymnal #239*

*Jim Cotter, guitar*

*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.*

Closing Prayer

†Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*The U.M. Hymnal #251*

*Verses 1 & 3*

†Benediction

†Sharing a Christmas Greeting

†Ringing of the Chimes

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

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**SERVING YOU TODAY...**

Pastor ..... Marianne Cotter  
Liturgist ..... Wendy Schneider  
Church Opener ..... Alice Schellenberger  
Greeter(s) ..... Gloria & Mark Carlson  
Usher(s) ..... Jerry & Sandra Jackson  
Worship Music & Choir Director ..... Charlene Flygt

*Thank you to Ellie Kennedy, Rex Flygt, John Ellington, Jim Cotter and Samuel Cotter for providing special music today!*