

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Introit "Isn't He Beautiful"

Ann Trevor Saadah

Lighting of the Advent Candle –

Karen Lawrence and Nancy Wolter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Welcome, saints of God, to this time of celebration; come with clean hands and pure hearts to worship God.

ALL We come to this holy place seeking a blessing. We gather as apostles to renew our faith.

ONE: Let us together prepare to greet the child of Mary, the one called Emmanuel, God with us;

ALL: We remember the story of God's greatest gift. We lift up our heads to share the good news.

ONE: Be still, that the Holy Spirit may be known to us; be open to the grace and peace of salvation.

ALL: We affirm that God loves us and all people; we seek to live that love among all we meet.

*Song of Praise "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Celebration Hymnal No. 249
"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Celebration Hymnal No. 251

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: Creator of all worlds, we lift our souls to you. All the earth is yours, and all who dwell here are your children. We seek once more to experience your truth, to receive your blessing, to ascend above the limitations we have known. You are strong and mighty beyond our imagining. We aspire to become more than we have believed ourselves to be, individually and together. Amen.

Special Music "Gotta Be Christmas Again" Jenn Worthington

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "O Holy Night" Lew Worthington

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Offertory Prayer

We gather...

We connect...

Congregational Prayer

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Song of Reflection "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Celebration Hymnal No. 250

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

*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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.*

Choral Response

Special Music "What Child Is This?" Cheryl Brown and John Peters

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

Choir Anthem

Children's Choir "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Sermon "Unwrapping the Best Gift" Rev. Lew Worthington

*Hymn of Response "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Pilgrim Hymnal No. 122

*Benediction

*Benediction Response: "Emmanuel"
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

*Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

We receive...

We respond...

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in ourselves and others a consciousness of our relationship and duties to God and each other; to create a spirit of love for truth, a passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service; to respect and protect all of God's creation. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with God and with each other to strive to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, purity and peace, seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

We love...

DEARBORN CONGREGATIONAL

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Rev. Dr. Lewis Worthington, Interim Pastor

Pastor Lew's e-mail: DearbornCongregational@gmail.com

Brian Sampson, Music Director

December 22, 2019

Poinsettias

Tom and Cheryl Brown In honor and memory of our parents
Jay and Ray Carter Jim and Marj Carter
Teresa Curlless My Parents
Polly Fitzpatrick In memory of Mike Fitzpatrick
Valerie Haas In memory of Patricia and Rudy Mangrum
Jim and Linda Haling In memory of John and Julia Gladys
In memory of Frank and Jane Haling
In memory of their parents
Grant and Cathy MacKenzie In memory of Betty's sister, Julie Crall
Tom and Betty Mawhinney In memory of Betty's parents, George and Helen Crall
In memory of Tom's parents, Clint and Mabel Mawhinney
John Peters In memory of Charles and Joanne Peters
John Proctor In memory of my parents
Ann Saadah In memory of Ray and Bev Traver
Kevin and Diana Schilbe In memory of John Schilbe and Lee Schilbe
Elizabeth Schlaff In memory of my aunt June, Grandma, and Mom and Dad
Nancy Wolter In memory of Everett and Clara Wolter
In memory of Del Wolter
The Worthingtons John Worthington and Dearborn Congregational Church
Jenn Worthington In memory John Hill

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you for helping adorn our chancel with lovely poinsettias.



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