

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Christmas Season

Sunday • December 29, 2024

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

PASSING the PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

Sharon Novak

— OPENING —

LIGHTING CANDLE of CHRIST

Leader: We have waited ...

People: *Will love find us?*

Leader: We have wished ...

People: *Will love make a home here?*

Leader: We have whispered ...

People: *Is love possible?*

Leader: We have wondered ...

People: *Will love come again?*

All: *Today we light the Christ candle and tell the story again. Our time of preparation is over, the birth has been celebrated again, and Love moves in the world. May we make a home for Love's presence in our hearts, our relationships, our community, and our world.*

*SONG 150

Away in the Manger

Sharon Novak

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE & SILENCE

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

*SONG 153

What Child Is This?

Sharon Novak

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 22-40

REFLECTION

Long-Awaited

Rev Gail Doktor

*SONG 158

Good Christians

All, Rejoice

Sharon Novak

— OFFERING —

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*DOXOLOGY

Doxology

Sharon Novak

— CLOSING —

BENEDICTION

Sharon Novak

May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.

May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today,

May the peace of God be with us today.

May it guide us and protect us, as we go our separate ways.

May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,

May the love of God shine through us today.

LUKE 2: 22-40 — Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “*Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord*”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “*a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ “*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,* ³⁰ *for my eyes have seen your salvation,* ³¹ *which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,* ³² *a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.*” ³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “*This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed*” ³⁵ *so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.*”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

CALENDAR for EPIPHANY & EARLY 2025

Sun, Dec 29: Christmas 2 — Worship

Sun, Jan 5: Epiphany – Worship with Communion and Wise Ones Pageant (Revisited)

Wed, Jan 22 — Annual Meeting