

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day, 2020

+ **OPENING CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER**

O God, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
we praise your name, O God.

+ **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

By Word and water God renews us this day
in the living fountain of God's grace,
and raises us with Christ Jesus
to live a new life in the Spirit. * OSL
***Satisfy us in the morning
with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.***

+ **MORNING HYMN**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with the uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

UM Book of Worship

+ **Isaiah 62:6-12**

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
⁷ and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;

⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹² They shall be called, “The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the LORD”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

+ **Psalm 97** NRSV

***Let the earth rejoice,
Let the earth rejoice!***

¹ The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his
throne.

³ Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

⁴ His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.

⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;

all gods bow down before him.

⁸ Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.

⁹ For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***Let the earth rejoice,
Let the earth rejoice!***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This

was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius
was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be
registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth
in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of
David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he
was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they
were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him
in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there
was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord
shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the
angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am
bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to
you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is
the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you
will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a
manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which
the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with
haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in
the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known
what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who
heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them
in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had
been told them.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

We bless you, Adonai, God of *Israel*,
for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.
You have brought forth a strong *De-liverer*

in the house of your child *David*.

**This is what your holy prophets an-nounced:
deliverance from enemies and from the hand
of all who hate *us*;
mercy a-mong our *ancestors*,
and remembrance of your ho-ly *covenant*.**

This is the promise you swore to our an-cestor, *Abraham*,
to make us un-a-fraid,
to rescue us from our *enemies*,
to serve before you, holy and just,
all the days of our *lives*.

**And this, my little child,
shall be called prophet of the Most *High*,
going before you, Adonai, to pre-pare your *paths*,
making your people know *de-liverance*
by the forgiveness of their *sins*.**

Through your merciful compassions, God our *God*,
the dawn from on high shall *visit us*,
to shine on those kept in dungeons
and the shadows of *death*
and to guide our feet onto the path of *peace*.

LUKE 1:68-79

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

+ **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty. From there he shall come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ **JOYFUL REFLECTION AND MEDITATION:**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O come, o come ye to Bethlehem.
O Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

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Let us pray: *(pray for those on your heart today)*

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day
in the newborn Child, Savior of the world.

We celebrate his birth;
for in him you come to be close to us,
that we might be close to you.

Especially, we give thanks
for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus
Christ and all he means to us...
for prospects of peace in the world...
for confidence in your almighty love...
for those who generously give...
for those who graciously receive...
for the Church's nurturing us in the faith...

God of all mercy,
as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our guest,
inspire our hearts to a hospitality
that welcomes all your children in his name.

Especially we pray
for those who have not heard your good news...
for the sick and suffering...

for those who know no laughter, only tears...
for those who govern and rule...
for those enslaved by tyranny...
for prisoners of addiction or abuse...
for the Church as a refuge for the needy...

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

UM Book of Worship

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

***Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily
visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming,
may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

+ COLLECT FOR FRIDAY

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting
of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith
where you have led the way, that we may at length fall
asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for
your tender mercies' sake. ***Amen.***

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+ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.*

+ **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father,
You have brought us in safety to this new day:
preserve us with your mighty power,
that we may not fall into sin,
nor be overcome by adversity;
and in all we do
direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

May the Christ who by his incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

UM Book of Worship

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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