

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 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**

It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old  
**From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold**

Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
**The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the Manger where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

UM Book of Worship

+ **Isaiah 9:2-7** NRSV

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

12/24/20

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

+ **Psalm 96** NRSV

***O sing to the Lord a new song;***

***sing to the Lord, all the earth.***

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

he is to be revered above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty are before him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

12/24/20

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup> before the LORD; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

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

***O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** **Luke 2:8-20** NRSV

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of  
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord  
shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to  
you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is  
the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you  
will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a  
manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a  
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with  
haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in  
the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known  
what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who

12/24/20

heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> 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

12/24/20

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:**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around, And glory shone around

"Fear not," he said, For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind, To you and all mankind."

***"To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Savior who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign."***

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
And meanly wrapped In swathing bands  
And in a manger laid, And in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song, Addressed their joyful song

***"All glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease, Begin and never cease!"***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

12/24/20

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

***Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

+ A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love

in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray,  
give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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.***

+ **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**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
holdfast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the  
afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you  
always. **Amen.**

12/24/20

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

Unless otherwise noted, prayers used in morning prayer recordings are from the *Book of Common Prayer* under public domain.

All biographical information and prayers cited \* **For All the Saints** are;  
“Reprinted from *For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations for United Methodists*, 2nd edition, editor Heather Josselyn-Cranson, © 2013 by the Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission.”

All prayers cited \* **OSL** are;  
“Reprinted from *The Book of OFFICES and SERVICES of The Order of Saint Luke*, © 2012 by The Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission of OSL Publications.”

All collects cited \* **Holy Women, Holy Men** are reprinted from  
*Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*  
Copyright © 2010 by The Church Pension Fund