

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ~ NEW YEARS EVE

10 a.m.

December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

INTROIT

A Gaelic Blessing
by John Rutter

CUMC Adult Choir
Previously Recorded

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Let us share God's love and peace with one another.

*HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain

UMH #251

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come to worship Christ, our Savior!

All: Receive the salvation he brings!

One: Make way for the Messiah in our lives!

All: He will make our lives new!

One: Glorify the Lord for his grace and mercy.

All: Praise the name of the Holy One.

One: With innocent children and wise elders,

All: praise the name of hope, love, peace, and eternal life.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty Father, we come to show and rejoice in the wonderful gift of your Son for our world. It is the miracle that fills our lives with your glory. On this last day of the year, may our celebration honor the good we have received from your hand, as we look forward to walking faithfully with you in the year ahead. As those who came before us, we will not be silent in our love for you; we will not mute our pure joy for what you have brought to our lives. We will be faithful in our commitment and service to you. Amen.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

"Children's Message"

Virginia Lorenzi

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you know our hearts. We are prone to rely on our human nature. We are insecure and weak. Help us to acknowledge and draw upon the power you have given us through your Holy Spirit. As we celebrate the birth of your son, open us to the many ways you seek to bless us and those around us. Free our lips to sing your praises and share your good news with all the world. As a new year dawns, help us bring righteousness and praise to all the earth in your heavenly name. Help us to testify to your name with boldness and confidence. For we know you are always with us, even unto the end of the age. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Through praise and thanksgiving, glory is given to God's name. Guided by the Holy Spirit, see what God's salvation has brought to God's precious children.

THE SCRIPTURES

THE NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 2:36-43

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:19, 20

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A New Year in Christ! It's a Wonderful Life!"

Kim Gill

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God of hope and joy, you gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give of ourselves and our resources to help our fellow man and proclaim your salvation to all the world.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Heaven's Rose
by Stan Pethel

CUMC Adult Choir
Previously Recorded

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the heavens and the earth, we come before you in celebration, bringing the gifts that you have blessed us with. Our songs of praise are for your name, honor, and glory. May we always be generous with our gifts. Help us to use our talents, gifts and treasures to serve you every day. May these gifts encourage others to sing praises to your name as they come to know the endless love you have for each of your children. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace and justice, you have taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Today we raise Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia, and all parts of the world where people are suffering from war. Provide protection and comfort to the innocent who have been impacted. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Stop the wars O, God. Amen.

*HYMN *This is a Day of New Beginnings* UMH #383

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Go. Be a bright light and example to the world. Use the gifts God has given you. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and burn within your heart. Show everyone you meet what it means to be a servant of the Lord of Lords and a child of the Prince of Peace. In Jesus' name. Amen

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 31, 2023

Rev. Sue Hyosuk Yun Jeong-Hwa Park Mrs. Stacey Longenberger
Pastor Minister of Music Secretary