

**January 1, 2023**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**People:** **The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.**

**Leader:** Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**People:** **The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.**

**Leader:** Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**People:** **Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being. Praise God!**

**\*Hymn #139:** "The First Nowell"

**\*Invocation**

**Holy Love, You make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Readings:** Isaiah 60:1-4; Matthew 2:1-12

Karen Jones

**Anthem**

**Time with Young Disciples**

**Sermon:** "Our Story Also"

**\*Hymn #159:** "As With Gladness Those of Old"

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

## Prayer Response

### Invitation to the Offering

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

**This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

This table is for all Christians, who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy,...We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times we praise you with joy.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,  
the whole universe speaks of your glory,  
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by the Bread of Life that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #126: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude

***Love and Mercy: Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas*** was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.