

December 31, 2023

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Holy Maker of all that is, you clothe us with the garments of salvation, with festive jewels of celebration.

People: **At the turning of the year, you festoon the whole world with shimmering light; you hang the trees with garlands of glory, reminding us once more that you have come to live among us.**

Leader: As we gather in this place of beauty, fill us with the spirit of the One who is eternally reborn among us, bringing words of peace and hope to all your creatures. Amen.

***Hymn #150: "Sing a Different Song"**

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture reading:

Luke 2:22-40

Karen Jones

***A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise**

**Bright Seed of new beginnings,
you fill the earth with energy and light.
Fire and hail, snow and frost, and stormy wind
are in your hands,
as welcome light begins to beckon
from the southern sky.
We give thanks for bright stars,
for moonlit nights,
for a sparkle of sunshine through rain-fogged window.
We give thanks for those who see your face
in the puckered grimace of a newborn child,
in the wizened grin of an old woman
wheeling her cart along the street;
in the laughter and the tears that bind us to one another.
Most of all, we are grateful for the life, death, and resurrection
of the one who calls us into new life,
and daily renews us as members
of the risen Body of Christ.**

Carol Sing

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

***Prayer of Intercession**

**Mysterious Spirit of compassion,
even as we celebrate the new birth of hope in our midst,
we remember all those
for whom hope is just a four-letter word.
We pray for those who know the darkness of depression,
for those whose bodies or minds are gripped in pain.
We pray for those who watch for morning,
for those who live in fear,
for those whose bellies are never full.
We pray for those who have too much,
for those who did not think that they needed anyone's prayers.
And we pray for ourselves,
That we may become the Body of Christ for the world.**

Lord's Prayer

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** (written by Charlotte Hull Whiting)

**In simple trust we bring our gifts,
Our tithes of all we've known
We hear your calling in this hour,
Feel stirrings of the Spirit's power
Life wings grown tired as stone.**

**To share our lives and spread the hope
Meant not for heaven afar,
But for your hurting and forlorn
Your child who wakened up this morn
Needing your love and ours.**

***Hymn #129:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude

Prayers for the liturgy come from Calling On God, Inclusive Christian Prayers for Three Years of Sundays, Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove, Skylight Paths, Woodstock, Vermont, 2014.