

**Prairieland Parish**

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*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God.*

*\* - You are invited to stand at these times... if you are able*

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**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**



**Prelude**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Gathering Meditation**

On this first Sunday after Christmas, as we gather with exhaustion of the season still fresh upon us. Let us gather this day with the beautiful and inspiring words of the great Apostle Paul. Here these words for you this day written in Colossians 3:12-17:

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ[b] rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ[c] dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.[d] 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**\*A Call to Worship**

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

**People: Called to lives of kindness, humility and compassion!**

Leader: God seeks to clothe us with love and to bind us together in harmony.

**People: God desires that we bear with one another and forgive as Christ forgives.**

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

**People: Called to lives of peace and patience; called to live with grateful hearts. We worship the God who calls us beloved!**

## **The Apostle's Creed (Traditional Version)**

**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, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

## **\*Praise Hymn UMH #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.**

**3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!**

## **We Hear God's Word**

**\*Gospel Reading .....Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)**

### **The Boy Jesus in the Temple**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents<sup>[a]</sup> saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years<sup>[c]</sup> and in divine and human favor.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

### **Children's Sermon**

**\*Faith Hymn UMH #249 "There's a Song in the Air"**

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**1 There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer  
and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire  
while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a King!**

**2 There's a tumult of joy  
o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy  
is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire  
while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a King!**

**3 In the light of that star  
lie the ages impearled;**

**and that song from afar  
has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame,  
and the beautiful sing  
in the homes of the nations  
that Jesus is King!**

**4 We rejoice in the light,  
and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night  
from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely  
evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle  
our Savior and King!**

**\*Message\***

### **We Respond to God's Word with Thanksgiving**

#### **Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

##### **Pastoral Prayer/ Lord's Prayer**

Blessed Lord, into our darkness you have brought the Light of your love. You have given to us a reminder of the many ways in which you care for us and guide us. This has been a hectic time for so many of us. We have invested ourselves, our energies, and our resources in a flurry of activities; and now we are coming to the end of this calendar year, with a new year in view, and we wonder how we are going to have the energy that the new year will demand. Help us place our trust and our lives in your care. As Joseph listened to the angel telling him to follow, help us follow you in all our ways. Give us strength and courage for the times ahead. Let love be the foundation from which all our actions spring. Bless and keep us in your care.

On this day Lord, we offer our prayers and our petitions On behalf of the church and the world. Receive the prayers of your people, and In your compassion, forgive our sins, and drive us to lives of faithful service in and through the one and diverse community of your church. through Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

Heavenly Father we come before you today in celebration of:.....  
We ask that you place your loving hands upon:.....

All this we ask as we join together in the prayer that your Son taught us...  
Our Father which art in heaven.....

### **\*Offertory/Doxology**

(UM Hymnal 95)

God of all good things: This morning, as we been drawn closer to the blessed birth, we remember Mary and how your blessings come to the world in the most unexpected ways and often through the most unprepared people. Give us eyes this day to see the wealth of ways you have blessed us and the opportunities you have placed before us to be an unexpected blessing to others. Use the gifts we bring to you this morning to bless those who need the good news the most. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who gave in love all there was to give for us. Amen

### **\*Departing Hymn UMH #246 "Joy to The World"**

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**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.**

### **\*Sending Forth**

At the right time, you sent your Son into the world. Many sought after the Messiah then, and we continue to do so today. As we search, help us to realize more diligent than our search, God searches us out to bless us through the abundance of God's grace. Amen.

**Postlude**