

MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
JANUARY 2, 2022
First Sunday, Epiphany Worship & Communion



WELCOME

Rev. Pam Cochrane

PRELUDE

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

John Dykes Marilyn Ham
Judy Bonnell, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's goodness is built into the foundation of creation!
God chose us in Christ from the beginning.
God calls on us blameless, holy and loved.

ALL: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: God has made an eternal promise to gather all things.
God will reconcile all things on earth and heaven in the fullness of time.

ALL: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: In Jesus Christ we have heard the word of truth.
In the Holy Spirit breathed on us and diverse peoples throughout the world,
God's promise has been sealed.

ALL: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

OPENING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Black No. 160

INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE (Unison)

Creator of Light, shine through us. We have come to worship our God who is not on high, in some cloud, but who has chosen to come in Jesus to live among us. May we encounter God in our worship and may our eyes be opened to seeing our God in these coming days: in the places we live, the lives we live, and the people we meet. Amen.

In the name of Christ, who is the Way, and who taught us to pray, saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God's Word came to God's own people, and the people did not accept the Word.
We do not accept you, our Sovereign Christ.
We cannot abide by your commandments.
We do not know how to love you, our neighbors or ourselves.
God's word came to God's own people, and the people did not accept the Word.
We do not accept you ruler of Peace.
We wage war on the most vulnerable in ourselves we wage war on vulnerability itself.
God's Word came to God's own people, and the people did not accept the Word.
We do not accept you, Light of the World.
We block your light shining in us, putting barriers between us:
-racism, sexism, heterosexism, cissexism, ableism, ageism.
We are caught in systems beyond our control:
Holy Word of God, call us to yourself once again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear these words of the Gospel according to John (1:14,16)
“And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen the Word's glory,
the glory of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.
From this fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”
Our forgiveness is as assured as God's mercies, which abound endlessly. Amen.

ANTHEM

Ding Dong Merrily! He is Born!

Trad. Carol Anna Laura Page
Kathy Gross, flute
Judy Bonnell, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karen Kilty

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

CALL TO OFFERING

Wisdom has been our companion and God's gift to us since time immemorial.
What righteous path is she leading you toward this Christmas season?
What does she beckon you to offer?
Where does she want you and God's church to go?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Most wise and wonderous God, we pray that soon and very soon,
your blessings will cover the face of the earth like a mist,
that divine offerings and the offerings of human hands
mingle imperceptibly as every need is satisfied.**

DOXOLOGY (Sung in unison)

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"
let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Believe!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 147:12-20 John 1:1-18

SERMON

"Claiming the Word of God"

Rev. Pam Cochrane

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

Black No. 330

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Consecration of the Meal

Words of Institution

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of Christ to the world and for being with us here and always. We celebrate this Communion meal with all your followers around the world. May we be strengthened to carry your word, love and light with us in all we do and say. All praise and glory to God. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Black No. 164

BENEDICTION

Go forth and share grace upon grace upon grace
In likeness of our Sovereign, Jesus Christ.
Share grace over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
And over every person you encounter.
Be as Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Masters in This Hall

Traditional French Carol Mark Hayes
Judy Bonnell, piano

We welcome and extend our thanks to Judy Bonnell, who is substituting for Ji Hye at the piano this morning.

*The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Paul & Doris Drouin
John & Doris Osgood
Given by Judy Drouin*

*Steeple lighting this Sunday in honor of
Leo Curda's Birthday
Given by Priscilla Curda*

Our lighted steeple is an important symbol of our presence in the community. Your contributions in memory of loved ones or to commemorate a special event help keep the steeple lit.

Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

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Morning Worship Service — Sundays at 10am

Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm

Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 am – 1 pm