



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

DECEMBER 26, 2021 • FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

“Dwelling”

WELCOME

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol

Kathy Gross, flute

Ji Hye Jung, piano

WE OPEN THE DOOR

Hope Waits for Us at Advent

Sing: **Love waits for us at Christmas
love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of celebration
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of the world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

Leader: Developed in the 14th century, the word “Dwell” became known as a “lingering” or “abiding.” It had connections to “in-habit,” another word developed at that time. After we’ve had an Advent or Christmas season on “Housing the Holy,” how we linger and abide, living into this habit of hospitality? What habits did you invite into your heart in this season that you desire to take with you into the new year? How might we sustain the dwelling places that feed, house and clothe those who need it most?

Sing: **Love waits for us at Christmas
love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of celebration
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of the world
where faith shapes all we do.
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CANDLE LIGHTING:

Judy Drouin

Reader: Today we light the Christ Candle once again that illumines the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives and in our church. May Christ’s Light awaken us to the possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this inn, a House for the Holy.

Sing: **Love waits for us at Christmas
love waits for us to care
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of celebration
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of the world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

OPENING HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain

FIRST READING:

Colossians 3:12-17

Ed Rozmiarek

ANTHEM

Were you there on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth
Francesca Napolitano
Ji Hye Jung, piano

SECOND READING:

Luke 2:41-52

Judy Drouin

SERMON

A Dwelling Place

Rev. Pam Cochrane

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

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 this day our daily bread, and 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 forever. Amen.**

A STORY OF INNKEEPING: OFFERING

Leader: Imagine the innkeeper forever changed. Often, we do not think of him or her as having a generous heart, but think of it, how compassionate they must have been to make room for these people-Mary and Joseph, who were in such need, experiencing a dire situation, and then the innkeeper celebrated the joy of an unexpected, spectacular birth of the prince of peace, the Lord of love, in their very home.

I have seen such generous actions stemming from our hearts and coming from our Home, God has witnessed it too, it is the gospel in action. May we always be willing to open-wide our heart as the innkeeper did so without even knowing provided the Christ child a place to lay his head. Thank you for your compassionate spirit and kindness as we offer them as our offerings, demonstrating our love for God, the Christ child and living faithfully, being filled with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

Thomas Ken

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CLOSING CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

BENEDICTION

May God's door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life. May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know, and may the spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine, making room in the Inn for ALL. May it be so for you, may it be so for us and may it be so for this church.
Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Make of our church a stable
A house for the holy,
A warm and sturdy place
For love to thrive and grow.**

POSTLUDE

O, Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Wie Schon Leuchett, Harm. J.S. Bach

Ji Hye Jung, organ

*The altar flowers are in honor of
Cole Johnson's 23rd Birthday
Given by Jonell Glass and Art, Payton, & Shelby Johnson*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
Rev. Charles N. Gross
Given by John Howard Stone
Robert Bartlett
Given by the Bartlett Family*