



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Tom Williams
December 31, 2017



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Meet & Greet

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Leader – Congregation)

Leader: In the bleakness of winter, we gather to celebrate and give thanks for God's presence and promise wrapped in the swaddling clothes of a baby.

Congregation: **We are a community committed to nurturing and growing in faith and in witness gathered in celebration and thanksgiving. .**

Leader: Examining the past, opening ourselves to the future and always listening for God's call and God's word, we welcome a new year with joy, hope, and pleasure.

Congregation: **Come let us listen together for God's word and God's call.**

ALL: **Come let us worship God.**

***OPENING HYMN #22** (Notebook) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

WE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Gracious and Most Merciful God, as we move into a new year, let us truly make it a time of joy, hope, and pleasure, a year in which we are unafraid to look back and examine our actions for wrongdoing as well as acts of justice, And let us look forward to a year of challenge and change, openness to the new and a commitment to caring for the world. And, as we continue on this journey, we pray that You continue to

call us to be makers of peace, doers of justice, practitioners of kindness. Hear now our silent prayers of things we have done and things we have failed to do.

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: Amen. Let us say what we truly believe.

All: **Our confessions are witness to our belief that as we forgive others, God forgives us and that forgiveness is assured by our faith in God's continuing presence as promised by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus whom we believe to be the Christ. Therefore, we declare and accept God's forgiveness. AMEN.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father"

WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Luke 2:22-40

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Embracing the Contradictory, Giving Thanks for the Challenge"

WE JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN #32 (Notebook) "In the Bleak Midwinter"

TIME OF PRAYER Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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 debts, As we forgive our debtors.
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.*

IN THANKFULNESS WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

PRESENT OUR GIFTS: *We are on the way with you, gracious God. We put our faith in you. Bless our giving and our gifts.*

OFFERTORY

***Offering Response**

Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, as stewards of that which has been shared with us, we are grateful for the opportunity to share with this congregation and its ministries. Enable us to use this offering, we pray, in ways that continue to be responsive to Your call to feed the hungry, lift up the broken hearted, welcome the stranger. And we give thanks that as stewards of these gifts, that call continues to be heard and welcomed in our midst. Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** #36 (Notebook) "Joy to the World!"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

** When you see an * in the bulletin, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*