

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**
“What Can I Give Him”

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wiseman I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

Altar Choir
Don Cason

THE POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Hymn 224

Nancy & Randall Faber



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 17, 2006
9:25 a.m.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue

There was a gift for each of us left under the Tree of Life two thousand years ago by the one whose birthday we now celebrate. The gift was withheld from no one. Some have left their packages unclaimed. Some have accepted the gift and carried it around, but have failed to remove the wrappings and look inside to discover the hidden splendor. The packages are all alike: in each is a scroll on which is written, “All that the Father hath is thine. Take and live!”

(The asterisk (*) designates when the congregation will please stand.
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.)

Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.
Bold print is read or sung by the congregation.)

WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler, Sr. Pastor Larry Newberg, Visitation Pastor

Our Missionaries

Oscar Ramos, Hispanic Ministry of North Indiana Conference
Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries
Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Specialized Ministries

Randy Manning, Director of Music Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist
Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Debra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Church Administrator, Chuck Hefley

Lighting the Advent Candles today are Jay & Karen King, Brandon & Brock.

Our Greeters today are Tom & Carol Scherschel and Sally Tate.
Our Ask Me Greeters today are Jim & Linda Henry.
Our nursery volunteer is Grace Kingseed.
Children’s Worship is led by Ann Bradshaw.

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.

When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.

Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.)

THE PRELUDE

“French Carol” and “Austrian Carol”

Diana Mitchell & Jack Elleman, pianists
Carrie Kraft

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Quartet

“Infant Lowly, Infant Holy”

Kasey May, Melanie May, Katelyn Kingseed, Rachel Bates

***THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

(The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.

The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God’s Word is open and available to all.)

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Hymn 216

(Organ interlude)

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

All: **As the light begins to push away the corners of darkness, as the time grows closer, we find ourselves needing more patience. We give ourselves to you to help us in our waiting.**

Leader: Last week we lit the second Advent candle, the candle of preparation.

Before that, we lit the first candle, the candle of anticipation.

(Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath.)

Now we light the third Advent candle as we gather around our wreath in patient waiting, for we would be prepared, excited, and yet patient!

(Light the pink candle in the Advent wreath.)

All: **We confess that we often are unable to wait, and hence our lives are marked by hurry and anxiety. We pray for patience - a patience that will transform our lives so that we may live with Christmas peace the whole year through. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and in our own way.**

Vesper Handbell Choir

"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

Moments of Silent Prayer

(Those desiring to come to the altar for prayer are welcome to come to kneel or stand.)

The Pastoral 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 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.

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

"As Lately We Watched"

Barbara B. Kinyon

(During the playing of the hymn, "Children of the Heavenly Father", Children, pre-school through Grade 2 are invited to attend an age appropriate worship experience in Room #102, Lower Level.

An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones to their room.)

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 46-55
(Pew Bible Page 724)

THE GOSPELAIRES

"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

R. Fischer Boyce

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Steve Beutler

"Did You Hear What She Said"

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

RESPONDING TO GOD IN OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

(If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.)

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

Diana Mitchell & Jack Elleman, pianists
Geoffrey Russell-Smith

"How Far is it to Bethlehem"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*THE HYMN OF INVITATION

"What Child Is This"

(The altar of this church is open to you...come.
Come to witness, come to repent, come to pray.)

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.)