



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 31, 2006
9:25 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas Day
Liturgical Color: White

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

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

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” Hymn 254

Kristina Langlois

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!
All: **We have come to experience God’s grace in our worship and in our lives!**

*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.)

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

Our Greeters today are Larry & Barb Moss and Suzanne Davis.
Our nursery volunteer is Wendy Daniels.
Children’s Worship is led by Adriene Riggle.

The Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joe & Toni Orr in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary and for Mike, Candace & Sam Blatt in honor of Andrew Blatt’s 19th birthday.
The red rose is in honor of the birth of Sara Kay Read, born December 19th to Scott and Brenda Read, Newport Beach CA;
Granddaughter of Bill & Sharon Basset.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP
"Blessed Assurance"

THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

God of eternal love, we pray that You will listen as we confess our failures in love and friendship. We talk about such things as caring, community, compassion but instead we often show our anger, hostility, and greed. We talk about faith, hope and love, but instead we show injustice, distrust and apathy. We talk about kindness, forgiveness and gentleness but instead we show hate, spite and selfishness. Forgive the sins of our fallen condition and the sins of our broken promises, and the sins we are afraid to even name. In the name of Jesus who was crucified for our sin...for all sin...forgive us.

Moments of Silent Prayer

(Those desiring to come to the altar for prayer are welcome 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.

(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 ANTHEM

"Star Child"

Altar Choir

Austin Lovelace

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:24-29

(Pew Bible Page 833)

THE PROCLAMATION

Cheddar Cheese, Tall Trees and Christians

Pastor Larry Newberg

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

"Star Carols"

*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.

Jay Rouse

THE HYMN

"*My Hope is Built*"

Hymn 368

*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.)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"*What Can I Give Him*"

Altar Choir
Don Cason

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.

THE POSTLUDE

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Mark Hayes