

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

"What Can I Give Him"

THE POSTLUDE

Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"; Fantasia Hymn 206 John A. Behnke

Altar Choir
Don Cason



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

December 23, 2007
9:25 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue

John says something that should move us deeply at the distance of centuries. In unparalleled words he writes with rousing witness:

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched—we speak of the word of life. (1 John 1:1)

How existential is this beautiful sentence of John's: "What...our hands have touched!"

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.

PRE SERVICE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Basic Morrison Youth Handbell Choir
Directed by Julie Maupin
arr. Frances Callahan
arr. Martha Thomapson

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler Chris Roberts Larry Newberg

Our Missionaries

Rev. Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries
Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone
Rev. Ken Vance, Missionary, Ndola, Town Center, Kafakumba Pastor's School, Africa

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
Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider Adriene Riggie, Childcare Provider
Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator T.J. Knowland, Youth Director

Our Greeters today are Charlie & Becky Reed and Darleen Donaghy.
Lighting the Advent Candles today are Pastor Chris, Renee, Bethany, Kennedy and Wesley Roberts.
The Acolyte is Courtney Mitts.

WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

Largo from the "New World Symphony"
Theme from "Surprise Symphony"

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

Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"; Theme Hymn 206 John A. Behnke

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.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*THE HYMNS OF PROCESSION AND WORSHIP

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Musical Interlude

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Light one blue candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **Today, we trust in God's promise that Jesus is coming.**

Leader: The second candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Light a second blue candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **Peace is what God offers us in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The pink candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings.

Light the pink candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **God needs us to share that joy which changes lives with others.**

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we celebrate that God loves us so much that He sent us His Son as a babe in a manger, knowing that he would die on a cruel cross of our sins. Today we light the candle representing the love that Jesus brings.

Light the final blue candle in the Advent wreath.

All: **Loving God, Jesus came to show us how much You love us. Love is a gift from You illustrated in Jesus Christ. Your Son showed people how to love and models for us how we are to love one another. Help us to so love that the world may know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer

are welcome to come and kneel or stand.

All are invited to spend these moments in silent prayer seated at your pew.

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.

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

"Ukrainian Bell Carol Fantasy"

Vesper Handbell Choir
Cynthia Dobrinski

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-25
(Pew Bible page No 681)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE ANTHEM

"Carols Around (And a Round)"

Altar Choir
arr. Carl Nygard

During the playing of the hymn, "Jesus Loves Me" children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children's Church in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones.

THE PROCLAMATION

GOOD NEWS - GOD LOVES PEOPLE

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING GOD 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

Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of Light"; Cantabile Hymn 206 John A. Behnke
*The Chorus 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

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.

See Insert