

***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

THE POSTLUDE

"Fum, Fum, Fum"

setting by Mark Hayes

December 14, 2008
9:25 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

O Holy Spirit of God, visit now this soul of mine, and tarry within it. Inspire all my thoughts. Pervade all my imaginations. Suggest all my decisions. Lodge in my will's most inward citadel and order all my doings. Be with me in my silence and in my speech, in my haste and in my leisure, in company and in solitude, in the freshness of the morning and in the weariness of the evening; and give me grace to worship You and to rejoice in your mysterious companionship.

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

"Celebrate the Child"

Chamber Ensemble

arr. by Stan Pethel

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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Musical Interlude

Hymn 238

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 Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Tina Browning, Childcare Provider

Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator T J Knowland, Youth Director

Our Greeters today are David & Donna Brownfield and Connie Wall.

The Acolyte is Ruth Kamanja.

Lighting the Advent Candle today is T J Knowland and the Grace Youth.

The red rose on the Altar is in honor of the birth of Lucas Allen to Mercedes Lahr on Fri., December 5.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

(Light the first and second candle of the Advent wreath)

Leader: The prophet Isaiah wrote, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Mark 1:2-3)

The harp, our third Chrismon, was the favorite instrument of King David. In I Chronicles 13:8 it is recorded: "And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps". Harps are also mentioned by John in his description of the music of heaven. (Revelation 5:8, 14:2, 15:2) For Christians, the harp symbolizes all music which is sung or played to the glory of God.

It has become our custom to prepare for the birth of the Messiah by decorating our cities and homes, hanging lights inside and out, singing songs to the glory of God in praise of the Christ child who came to save us from our sins. But too often we sing of Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and measure the quality of our Christmas morning by the number of gifts we receive on Christmas.

(Light the third candle of the Advent wreath)

As we light this third candle in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, perhaps we need to listen again to John the Baptist's message and the songs of the season, preparing the way of the lord.

- ...make straight the paths
- ...repent of your sins
- ...be baptized
- ...live holy lives devoted to God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

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.

THE ANTHEM

"O Rejoice, Virgin Mother"

Altar Choir
arr. by Richard Hillert

Harp played by Susan Hall, Flute played by Stephanie Bolinger
and Cello played by Craig Williams

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.

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision"

Harp played by Susan Hall
arr. by Louise Trotter

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 30:4-11, 27-31

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Steve Beutler

TO WALK AND NOT TO FAINT

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

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

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

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn 234