

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE
"What Can I Give Him"

THE POSTLUDE

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Altar Choir
Don Cason

setting by Robert W. Thygerson



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

January 4, 2009
9:25 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday
Liturgical Color: White

Right from the beginning God's love has reached, and from the beginning man has refused to understand. But love went on reaching, offering itself. Love offered the eternal...we wanted the immediate. Love offered deep joy...we wanted thrills. Love offered freedom...we wanted license. Love offered communion with God Himself...we wanted to worship at the shrine of our own minds. Love offered peace...we wanted approval for our wars. Even yet, love went on reaching. And still today, after over two thousand years, patiently, lovingly, Christ is reaching out to us in 2009. Right through the chaos of our world, through the confusion of our minds. He is reaching...longing to share with us...the very being of God. God's love still is longing, God's love still is reaching, right past the shackles of our minds. And the Word of the Father became Mary's little Son. And His love reaches all the way to where we are in this time of worship.

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

"Noel in G"

Louise-Claude Daquin

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

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

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 Ron & Jan King and Betty Corn.

The Acolyte is Dede Hedges.

The Altar Flowers were given to the glory of God by Margaret Hobbs in memory of Melvin Hobbs and Elinor McClure in honor of a Happy 2009.

The red rose is in honor of the birth of Parker Fredrick James Pardue, born December 16 to Chris & Barbra Pardue, Grandson of Jim & Linda Henry.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“God of the Ages”

Hymn 698

Musical Interlude

THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **My God, I desire to love You perfectly. With all my heart which You made for Yourself; with all my mind, which only You can satisfy; with all my soul, which soars on eagles wings to You; with all my strength, my feeble strength, which shrinks before so great a task and yet can choose nothing else but to spend itself in loving You:**

Claim my heart.

Fill my mind.

Uplift my soul, and

Reinforce my strength—

That when I fail, You may succeed in me and make me love You even more in the year ahead. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and our own way.

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

“The Lord Comes”

Altar Choir

Gary Alan Smith

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

*THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 2:1-12

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Stephen Beutler

WHEN THE STAR LEADS YOU TO SOMETHING LESS THAN YOU EXPECTED

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

“He is Lord” with “O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

Mark Hayes

Hymn 95

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Hymnal pg. 18

The congregation is invited to approach the altar to receive the elements through the center aisle. The ushers will direct you as to when you may come. All who desire to participate are invited to come, kneel or stand at the altar, and receive the elements of Holy Communion by intinction (you may receive a piece of the broken bread and dip it into the cup). You may remain in an attitude of prayer and meditation at the altar as long as you desire. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Should you desire, the communion elements will be made available for you to partake in your pew.

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

“O God our Help in Ages Past”

Hymn 117

*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