

THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“People, Look East”

THE POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

Bernard Hemmerle

setting by Michael Burkhardt



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 13, 2009
9:25 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue

At Christmas we join with the herald angels singing, “Glory to the newborn King!” Ephemeral light shines in the darkness, about which we sing, “O Morning Star, how fair and bright thou beamest forth in truth and light!” So awesome is this story that one has to share the “good news and great joy” upon the mountain—for the Messiah has come! Such is God’s advent among us, however, that we can never fully grasp the mystery of “Emmanuel,” so we must continue to remember and to experience anew, year upon year, the permanent crisis of light in the midst of the world’s darkness and turmoil. Welcome to Advent—the season where light will dispel the darkness one candle at a time.

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

“Come, Messiah King”

setting by Jay Rouse

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

Rev. Stephen A. Beutler

Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

Rev. 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

Barbara Hobbs, Music Ministries

Amanda Kelly, Children’s Ministry

Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager

Phill Montgomery, Counselor

Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Hannah Arend, Christian Education Intern

TJ Knowland, Youth Director

Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director

Debra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse

Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider

Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider

Our Greeters are Larry & Phyllis Grant.

Today’s Acolyte is Deanna Hedges.

Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Joyful 3M Sunday School Class and Mel Hobbs.

Lighting the Advent Candles are Tom & Pam Prather.

The red rose on the Altar is in honor of the birth of Maurice Byram Wright (Reece) to Maurice & Kelly Wright

on Mon., December 7, grandson of Ron & Melissa Byram.

THE ANTHEM

“Revelation 19”

Altar Choir
Jeffrey LaValley/Jack Schrader

CHILDREN’S MOMENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST

During the singing of the hymn, “Jesus Loves Me” children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children’s Church in the Chapel. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones to the Chapel.

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Revelation 1:1-8

THE PROCLAMATION

Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring
“**BEGINNING AT THE END, ENDING AT THE BEGINNING**”

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

“Liebesleid”

*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.

Ray Biederman, violin; Barbara Lennon, piano
Fritz Kreisler

Hymn No. 210

*THE HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

“**All Earth is Waiting**”

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.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“**Hail to the Lord’s Anointed**”

Hymn No. 203

Musical Interlude

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: “*And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.’” (Luke 1:46-49)*

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

(The first, second and third candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

Song of preparation for Moments of Silent Prayer

“**O Little Town of Bethlehem**”

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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.