



January 3, 2021

GATHERING

Kathleen Custer

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Sell

PRELUDE

*Impression on We Three Kings*

A. V. Fedak

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We were created out of God's pure delight.

**People: Glory, power and praise to our Maker!**

Leader: We are saved by God's tenacious love.

**People: Glory, power and praise to the Messiah!**

Leader: We will be united in God's enduring hope.

**People: Glory, power and praise to the Spirit!**

Leader: Let all the hosts above and all on earth below

proclaim the glory, power and praise of the Eternal, Triune God!

OPENING HYMN #88

*Maker, in Whom We Live*

***Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,  
the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love.***

***Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,  
while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.***

***Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race  
render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.***

***The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim,  
and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"***

***Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore  
thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart renewing power.***

***Not angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height,  
the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.***

***Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,  
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.***

***When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,  
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.***

BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Archer and Ruby McDaniels-Russell  
Laura and Bridgett McDaniels-Russell, parents  
Jett McDaniels-Russell, brother

Leader: Members of the household of God,  
I commend Archer and Ruby to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**People: We give thanks for all that God has already given them  
and we welcome them in Christian love.  
As members together in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the Church,  
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Leader: May the God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish and strengthen Archer and Ruby  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that they may live in grace and peace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Shine upon us, God of glory,  
and by your Spirit reveal to us  
the grace and truth of Jesus Christ,  
your Word made flesh.  
Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of God's glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

*I Wonder as I Wander*

by J. J. Niles  
Amy Cuomo, soloist

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 147:12-20

Amy Sell

Leader: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!

**People: For God strengthens the bars of your gates,  
and blesses your children within you.**

Leader: The Lord grants peace within your borders,  
and fills you with the finest of wheat.

**People: God sends out the command to the earth;  
God's word runs swiftly.**

Leader: The Lord gives snow like wool;  
and scatters frost like ashes.

**People: God hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?**

Leader: God sends out his word, and melts them;  
God makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**People: The Lord declares his word to Jacob,  
and statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

Leader: God has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know God's ordinances.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2166

*Christ Beside Me*

***Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me - King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above - me never to part.***

***Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me - shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising - light of my life.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy Sell

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Dirty Glory*

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #598

*O Word of God Incarnate*

***O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.***

***O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
to bear before the nations your true light as of old.***

***O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Vivace from Sonata, Opus 1, No. 3*

G. F. Handel

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*

John Hague & Dick Tiller-Luchtman, *Audio Visual*

Kathleen Custer, *Guest Organist*

Amy Cuomo, *Soloist*