

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 34 South Main Street Rochester, NH 03867 (603) 948-1225 or (603) 948-1179 Email at Office@firstumcrochester.org

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# December 31, 2023

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(\*) The congregation will please stand as able (BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

# THE CHURCH GATHERS

### SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE: CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

\*CALL TO WORSHIP \*\*\*

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us.

And yet, still, we wait.

We prepare to welcome a new year,

thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

We join generations of Simeons and Annas

who learned and taught us how to listen,

notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

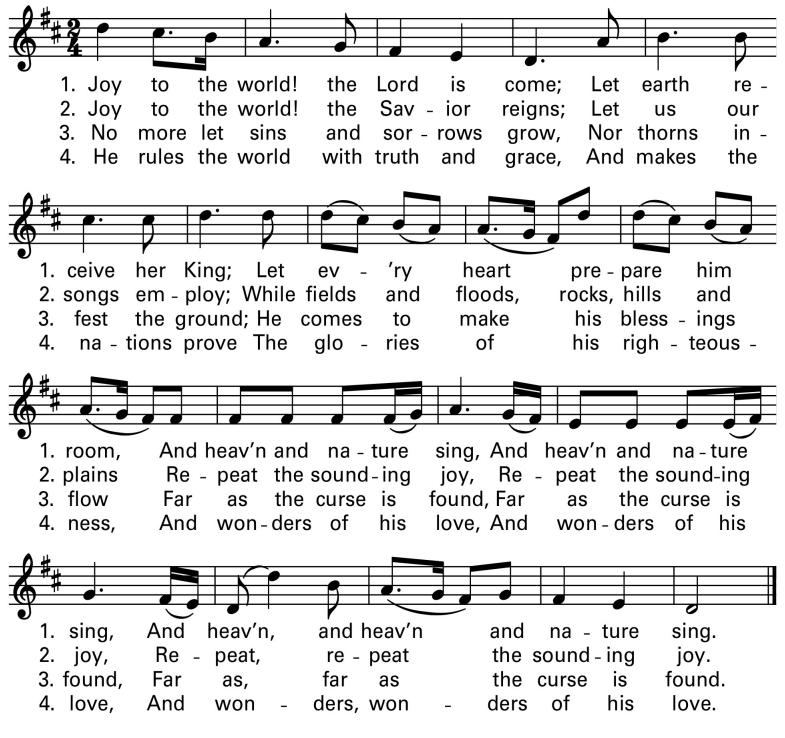
Come, let us worship God,

whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

### JOY TO THE WORLD

\*CAROL

**ANTIOCH** 



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God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs,

God of abundance and grace:

You know us well, better than we know ourselves.

You hear us cry "Gloria!" and "Praise!"

And you watch us tear things apart

with our words and deeds.

You hear us say "Thy will be done"

and "Use me, O God"

And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive.

Hear us now say,

"Help us to change; turn us around,

Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful." This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's tender mercy rests on us, heals us, and transforms us. God's Light breaks into our lives and shows us the way. Renewed and made whole, we see the path God has prepared for us the way of peace, the way of peace, the way of hope, the way of grace, the way of service. Thanks be to God. Amen.

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

# THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

## CHOIR CAROL

### Born In A Stable

Philip Stopford

Born in a stable in Bethlehem, gently in manger laid, Jesus the King of the human race, grant us your holy peace.

Mary and Joseph watch over him there, Oxen and ass by their side; Worship together the Holy babe,

Savior of all mankind.

Far from the East there came wise men three bearing their gifts for a King, kneeling to Him who would save the world, Jesus the Lord of all.

Though for our Savior no room was found, Son of the highest of all, still in our hearts there is room for You, come with your holy peace

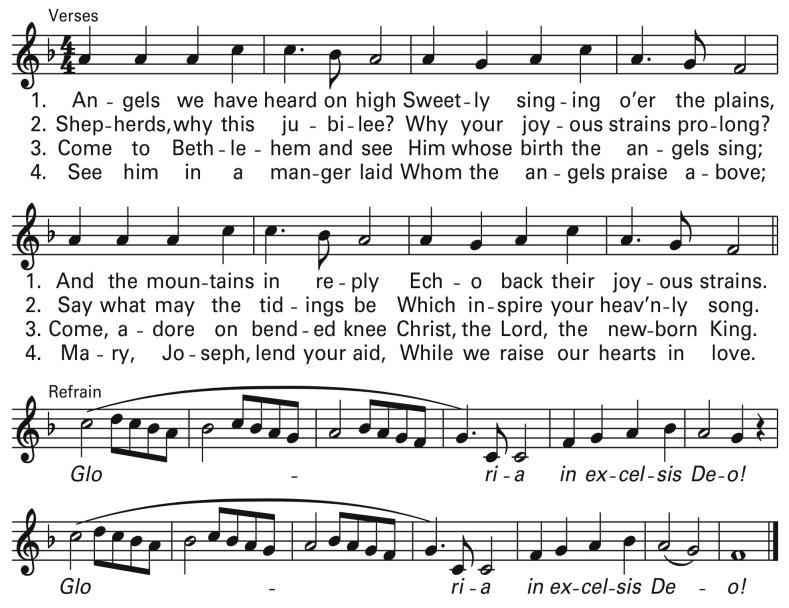
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#### TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CRILDREN ARE PRESENT)



# ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA



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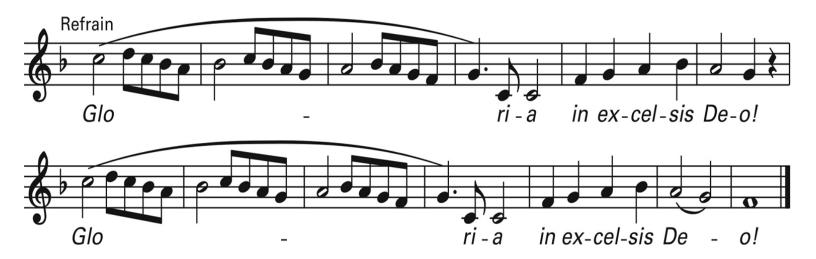
### GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:22-40

Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson

For the word of God in Scripture, For the word of God among us, For the word of God within us, **Thanks be to God!** 

### \*GLORIA PATRI



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#### SERMON Ho-Soon Han

"Elders With Wisdom of God

# THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*CAROL

### Star-Child

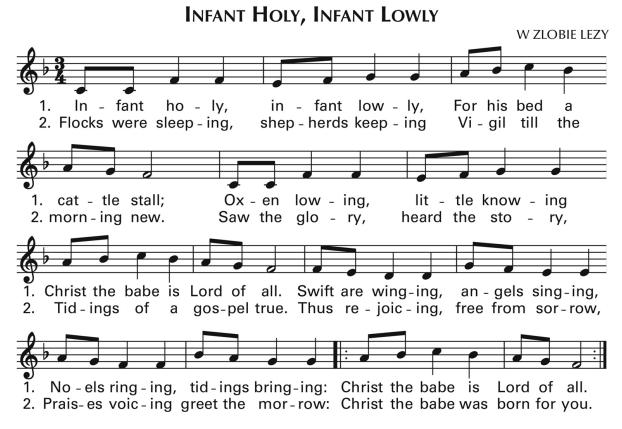
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### **PRAYER SONG** (Verse One)



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#### INVITATION TO PRAYER:

"The Lord be with you " Leader:

"And also with you..." People:

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

(As above, VERSE TWO) PRAYER SONG

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation Kevin G. Lindsay

#### DOXOLOGY



Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003 Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website http://www.umcworship.org. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

#### **Offertory Prayer:**

# THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

### \*CAROL



#### \*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

SORTIE ON "In Dulci Jubilo" Improvisation: Kevin G Lindsay

### VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

<u>Liturgist:</u>

Altar Flowers:

Video and Sound Engineer:

Karen Lindsay <u>Engineer:</u> Charlie Devito In Loving memory Alan & Elise Elwood In Celebration of Mary-Lane Ramminger's Birthday from Dawn Nester

<u>Image on Cover:</u> Opie, John, 1761-1807; Bromley, William, 1769-1842. The Macklin Bible -- <u>The</u> <u>Presentation in the Temple,</u> from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <u>https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-</u> <u>imagelink.pl?RC=54060</u> [retrieved December 26, 2023].

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\*\*\*Worship elements: Discipleship ministries https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning

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# Looking Ahead Readings for January 7, 2024 First Sunday after Christmas Day Year "B" *Genesis 1:1-5 / Psalm 29* Acts 19:1-7 / Mark 1:4-11

*More information about our church, can be found <u>on our website</u>. Follow or "LIKE" us on <u>Facebook</u>*