



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Email at *Office@firstumcrochester.org*

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

ANTIOCH



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -  
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



1. ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
3. fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
4. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
3. flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
4. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
3. found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
4. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*\***

**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 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](#)**

**(Pg. 604) \*\***

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)*

## \*CAROL

# ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA

### Verses



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man-ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



1. And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n-ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

### Refrain



Glo

ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o!



Glo

ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

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*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**

Refrain

Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

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SERMON Ho-Soon Han

*“Elders With Wisdom of God*

**THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

# Star-Child

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1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God, love Child,  
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,  
 3 Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years, sad child,  
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,  
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -

*Refrain*

Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:  
 used child no one wants to know:  
 lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar -  
 faith child know - ing joy in store:  
 earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931 - )  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926 - )  
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STAR-CHILD  
 4.5.4.5.Ref.

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## PRAYER SONG (Verse One)

### INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

W ZLOBIE LEZY

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a  
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vi - gil till the

1. cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing  
2. morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry,

1. Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing,  
2. Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row,

1. No - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
2. Prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row: Christ the babe was born for you.

Text: 87 87 88 77; Polish carol; tr. by Edith M. Reed, 1885–1933. Music: Polish carol.

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## INVITATION TO PRAYER:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

## PRAYER SONG (As above, VERSE TWO)

### [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

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>  
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D  
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#</sup>m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A  
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
Irr. with Refrain

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](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## Offertory Prayer:

# THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

# The First Noel

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1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)

MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL

Irr. with Refrain

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## \*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

SORTIE ON "In Dulci Jubilo"

Improvisation: Kevin G Lindsay

# VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist:

Karen Lindsay

Video and Sound Engineer:

Charlie Devito

Altar Flowers:

In Loving memory Alan & Elise Elwood

In Celebration of Mary-Lane Ramminger's Birthday from Dawn Nester

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

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