

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

December 27, 2020



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation.*



Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and

In Loving Memory of Our Parents

Presented by Pastor Mary and Rick Browne

*In Honor of all our Pastors here at Ebenezer, Past and Present
Presented by Michael and Helen Lynch*

Participating in Service

Pastor:	Rev. Mary H. Browne
Pianist:	Laurel Wirtz
Worship Leader:	Paul Kelley
Live Stream Team:	Richard Browne, Bill Clark, and Reed Williams
Ushers:	Dorothy Towery and Sherri Hodgson
Song Leader/Soloist:	Delia Irwin

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...*

*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:31, 33*

December 27, 2020

10:00 AM

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"There's a Song in the Air"

Karl P. Harrington

*OPENING PRAYER

Light of the world, shine in our lives this day.

**As we gather to worship you this day, give us the eyes of Simeon
and the faith of Anna, that we may see the promise of our salvation.**

**As we come before you with hope and expectation, give us the spirit of your Son,
that we too may grow in strength and increase in wisdom.**

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*CAROL (UMH 234, v. 1, 2, 6)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

**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;**

REFRAIN:

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;**

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

(REFRAIN)

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.**

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

(REFRAIN)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, your Word comes to us: Jesus Christ, Immanuel.

Holy Word, you cross every border meant to shut you out.

Holy Spirit, speak to us in the word read and proclaimed.

Hearing, may we dream your dreams and faithfully follow wherever you lead.

In your triune name we pray. Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON		Jeremiah 31:31-34
	This is the Word of the Lord.	Thanks be to God.
*GOSPEL LESSON		Luke 2:22-40
	This is the Word of the Lord.	Thanks be to God.
MESSAGE	"A Pattern Far Better"	Rev. Mary Browne
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	"I Wonder As I Wander" Delia Irwin, soloist	Niles/arr. Hustad

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God,
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

OFFERTORY	"Sing We Now of Christmas"	Martin Shaw
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*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Christmas Doxology	GREENSLEEVES
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**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.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God, thank you for the gifts of Christmas that bless us throughout the year.
As we offer you our offering in gratitude and praise, we dedicate our labor, our industry, and our very lives to the building of your kingdom.
May our gifts go forth to a world in need, as signs of your redemption and your hope.
May we shine with your glory, that others may discover your saving love.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

WESLEYAN COVENANT SERVICE

THE PROCLAMATION

Dearly loved brothers and sisters,
the Christian life is a life found in Christ,
redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God.
We are those who have entered into this life through baptism
and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ.
He is the Mediator of this covenant.
He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God,
who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ,
the author and perfecter of our faith.
Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us,
showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise
to no longer live for ourselves but instead
to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us
and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important
for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows.
In this same way, we come today
to renew our covenant with God.
Many generations have done this before us.
Today we make the covenant our own,
renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant
that binds us all to God.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Let us pray:

Let us worship our Creator, the God of love;
God continually preserves and sustains us;
we have been loved with an everlasting love; through Jesus Christ
we have been given complete knowledge of God's glory.

You are God; we praise you; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor;
he was tempted in all points as we are, but he was without sin;
he went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom;
he accepted death, death on the cross;
he was dead and is alive for ever;
he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who trust in him;
he sits in glory at the right hand of God;
he will come again to be our Judge.

You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life.
Through the Spirit we are born into the family of God,
and made members of the body of Christ;
the witness of the Spirit confirms us;
the wisdom teaches us;
the power enables us;
the Spirit will do far more for us than we ask or think.

All praise to you, Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND PARDON

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God, and the hope of His calling,
examine ourselves by the light of His Spirit,
that we may see wherein we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice,
and considering all that this Covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.
Let us humbly confess our sins to God.

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ.
We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him,
our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship,
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,
our hesitating witness for Christ,
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Let each of us in silence make confession to God.
(*silent personal confession*)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Now the message that we have heard from God's Son and announce is this:

God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him.

If we live in the light—just as he is in the light—

then we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us.

But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right;

he will forgive us all our wrongdoing.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

Let us pray:

**Father, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as Mediator
of a new covenant;**

**give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves
in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE COVENANT

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection,

has made a new covenant with all who trust him.

We stand within this covenant and we bear his name.

On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ.
On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.
Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with his people,
and accept the yoke of Christ.

To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are,
and that Christ himself is our only reward.

Christ has many services to be done;
some are easy, others are difficult;
some make others applaud us,
others bring only reproach, some we desire to do because of our own interests;
others seem unnatural.

Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times
we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things.

Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own.

Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises
and relying on his grace.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

**And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

*CAROL (UMH 251)

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of our God.

We go with joy, for Christ has clothed us with love.

Go in hope, for the Spirit shows us our glorious inheritance in the Lord.

We go with God.

May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those
who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always.

May Jesus Christ who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross,
bring you peace.

May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and for ever.

Amen.

***GOING FORTH**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Gary Alan Smith

**please stand, in body or spirit*

bold text indicates congregation response

UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing

††This Order of Worship is subject to the direction of the Holy Spirit.††

We offer heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Laurel Wirtz for helping to lead in worship today in the
absence of our Music Director, Mr. F. Robert Rudolph.

Scriptures in preparation for Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2021:
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12



Our Prayers

Michele Berk Mike Brendza Ralph Crossan Benny Haines John Humphreys Delia Irwin Ken Jamison ++	Connie Miller Joy Gravatt Peoples Shirley Richardson Jordan Rumbly +++ Shane Rumbly +++ Phillip Stehman Becky Van Cott +++ Neal Vanderpool +++ Bill Winkelman Becky Wolfe	<u>Ongoing Concerns</u> Jade August Barbara Anna Marie Beasom Donald Bogert Clara Breslford Roy Brown Judy Crescenzo Frieda Crossan Max Dawson Ruth Dore Victoria “Bo” Fulton Ken Johnson	Kristin Howard & Louise Pierce Curtis Reedy Denise Reedy Jeannette Richart Zach Trexler Josh Vible Alex Wiant
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In an effort to list all prayer requests each will appear for 4 weeks as indicated by the number of + after the name

Please pray for all Law Enforcement Officers.

**Please continue to remember all who serve our country in the military,
especially pray for those represented from our congregation.**

**Your giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pick
up in Room 211.**

All our members, ministers
 Rev. Mary H. Browne, Senior Pastor
 contact @ eumc_pastor@verizon.net
 Robert Rudolph, Music Director
 contact @ eumc_music@aol.com
 Calvin Keeler, Sr., Minister of Visitation
 Megan & Mike Jones, Youth Ministry
 Carol Coney, Administrative Assistant
 Jackie Scott, Facilities Manager
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If you have information about an event which you would like featured on the website, please contact
 Lori Brown loribrown927@msn.com or Rick Browne at rbrowne646@gmail.com.