

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church
10:30 AM January 7, 2024 Epiphany Observed



Tending the Tree of Life, Hildegard van Bingen

GATHERING TONES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER

enfleshed

“For every atom belonging to me as good as belongs to you.”

(Walt Whitman)

Wonderful Mystery, in our very nature we belong to each other—tangled up in mutuality for millenia; unfolding our story of life on this small blue planet.

Awaken us to the wisdom of deep time, that radical possibility may live boldly through us. When the powerful tell us our hope for change is futile, remind us of the Wild Cosmos from which we were birthed. Transformation, Beauty, Liberation, Ever-Unfolding New Life—this is our prayer, oh God!

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

SEARCHING FOR THE MAGI

CAROL # 151

‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

**‘Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;**

**Before their light the stars grew dim, and wondering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus Emmanuel; Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.**

**The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.**

**The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus Emmanuel; Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.**

CAROL # 139

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

**And by the light of that same star three sages came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**Then entered in those magi three, and bending low upon their knee,
and offered there in great reverence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
(Refrain)**

PRAYER

Epiphany

Walter Brueggemann

On Epiphany day, we are still the people walking.

**We are still people in the dark, and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss —
a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.**

We are — we could be — people of your light.

**So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing;
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness that will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good rule.**

That we may have energy, courage, and freedom
to enact your rule through the demands of this day.

We give our day to you and to your rule, with deep joy and high hope.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you,

And also with you. *Please take a moment to greet one another with the sign of God's peace.*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

I invite you to join me in lighting candles of hope for the world.

May our prayers for peace shine through our lives and into the world.

All are invited to come forward and light candles representing prayers for peace.

VOLUNTARY

Cradle Song

by François Couperin arr. by Claude Means

CONTEMPORARY READING

Howard Thurman

Look well to the growing edge! All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms,

green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!

A READING FROM SCRIPTURES

REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi Weatherford

*CAROL #158

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

WIE SHOEN LEUCHTET

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Please pass the offering plate down the pew. When it gets to the end turn around and give it to the person immediately behind you

Offertory

Magnificat Fugue #2

by Johann Pachelbel

*HYMN of PRAISE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentle Ones

18th C English carol adapted, hmw

**God rest ye merry, gentle ones, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray –
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!
Now to our God sing praises all people in this place!
And with true love and friend - ship each other now embrace,
And let this holy Christmas-tide all bitterness displace: O tidings....**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

enfleshed

**Holy Creator, may the singing-forth of all beings be honored with our offerings.
Compost with us systems of harm. Tend with us gardens of compassion.
Practice with us putting flesh on the World to Come, ever-enfolding, here and now.
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The recipe for McKinley communion bread is adapted by Julie Birdwell from "Gluten-Free Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day", written by Hertzberg and Francois, and uses a gluten-free sourdough starter. For those who are curious, it contains Sorghum Flour, White Rice Flour, Brown Rice Flour, Oat Flour, Teff Flour, Tapioca Flour, Potato Starch, Water, Xanthan Gum, Turbinado Sugar, Kosher Salt. The ceremonial loaf is a yeast-free, vegan loaf using gluten-free flour and oat milk. We are willing to further adapt the recipe if any of these ingredients is problematic for any allergy sufferer, just let Julie know.

In addition to GF bread, McKinley uses only non-alcoholic grape juice in our common service

INVITATION

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
God of majesty and splendor.

By your power you created all that is, making a universe out of chaos, and ruling over all things in love. Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among the nations.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in Jesus' death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Oh -star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAR WORDS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(based on Howard Thurman's "The Work of Christmas")*

God, we thank you that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and magi are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away, this very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among all, and make a heart-music so that everyone can dance. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

Spiritual

*BENEDICTION

Chalking the Doors

Book of Common Worship, PCUSA, adapted

God of doors and homes, **bless our church home this year and every year.**

Bless all who come and go through these doors,

both those who are active here and those who visit.

May all who enter through these doors **come in peace and bring joy.**

May all who come to these doors **find welcome and love.**

May the love and joy in this church home overflow
and spread into the community and the world.

And may Jesus the Christ watch over us all. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

by Wilbur Held

Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgist,

Director of Children's Education, Sara McHenry

Organist, Andrew Woodruff

Pastor, Heidi Weatherford

Director of Music, Alonza Lawrence

Worship Techs, Josh Harris and Lara Hebert

How to Contact the Church Staff All church staff can be contacted through the McKinley Website:
www.mckinleycu.org.

How to give:

Online contributions and pledges are accepted at tithely.com/give?c=2133263

Or by mailing your donations to

"McKinley Presbyterian Church"

410 E. Daniel Street

Champaign, IL 61820



Chalking the Doors

An old Epiphany tradition involves using chalk to write the letters CMB and the numbers of the current year, separated by crosses (+), over the doors of congregations and Christian homes:

20 + C + M + B + 25 or CMB + 2025

The letters CMB are said to stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

Save the Date for Chili

The Annual Youth Chili Cook Off will be February 2, right after worship, in the Presby dining hall. Mark your calendars, look for a good recipe, and watch for more details! We will begin selling tickets later in January. All proceeds support our McKinley Youth service projects and travels.

Fair Trade Coffee This Month

Due to an ordering error, the youth have 5 pounds of regular French roast coffee beans for sale. If you've been considering trying some of our fair trade coffee, we will be packaging it in 1 pound bags, which will be available on Sundays for \$10 a pound. You may also contact Jane Cain at 217-649-1082 or jgcain48@gmail.com to arrange delivery.

Newspapers Wanted

The Education Committee is again planning a morning of service projects in the McKinley Foundation for families and their children on MLK Day, January 20. We need your help! One of our projects is to fold newspapers for the Champaign County Humane Society and we need papers. If you get copies of any newspaper, please bring them to the desk in the foundation or to the back of the sanctuary on any Sunday morning before the 20th. Thank you for helping us provide opportunities for young children to learn the importance of serving others.

Artists' Alley Inaugural Artist-in-Residence

McKinley Foundation is proud to welcome Asa Featherstone, IV, to Artists' Alley, January 26 through 31, 2025. His exhibit —MIDTONES First Impression—will open Thursday, January 30, at 5:00 pm. The opening will be the culminating event of Asa's challenging and thought-provoking weeklong residency during which he will be engaging with participants from campus and the surrounding communities. Stay tuned for more details! To learn more about Asa Featherstone, IV, visit his webpage. <https://www.asafeatherstone.com/about>

Coming this Week:

January 6: McKinley Staff Meeting, Rev. Heidi Office Hours, and Christian Education

January 7: Buildings and Grounds and Student Outreach Committee

January 8: McKinley Choir Practice

January 9: Personnel Committee

January 12: Preschool/Elementary Sunday School, Sunday Worship, and Session Meeting

January 20: MLK Day

February 2: Chili Cook Off



McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith

Offering genuine welcome,

Working for reconciliation, and

Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.