

MANGER THINGS

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL





*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

"O sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
 Tell of his salvation from day to day.
"Declare his glory among the nations,
 His marvelous works among all the peoples" (*Psalm 96:1-3*).
"Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
 Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
 Bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
 Tremble before him, all the earth" (*Psalm 96:7-9*).
"Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!'
 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
 And the peoples with his truth" (*Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b*).

RESPONSE

John S. Dwight

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe C. Adam; arr. Jack Schrader © arr. 1989 Hope Publishing Company

CANTIQUE DE NOEL Irr.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
 O night divine! O night, O night divine!

*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

(*Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community 1997, Glasgow G51 3UU Scotland)

Rev. Meghan Malone

They have heard it on the hills
They have heard it in the streets,
 The rumor prevails,
and none can contradict it.

Some are looking up the prophets,
Some are studying the skies,
 Others speculate or calculate,
But none deny the facts.

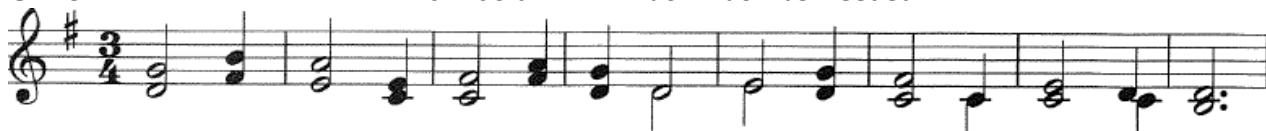
Some are dancing back to sheepfolds,
Some are travelling foreign roads,
 Some await more information,
Others celebrate the news.

In a foreign place,
A ruler has imposed a new tax,
 In a hilly place,
An old woman suckles her new son,
 In a royal place,
An old ruler senses a new threat,
 In a busy place,
A young couple cope with their new child.

At what seems the wrong time,
In what seems the wrong place,
 Among those who seem the wrong people,
God has decided to bless, disturb, and visit us

CAROL

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"



1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag-es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an-gels sing;
 3 Cen-tu-ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,



might not be a plan or ar-my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would reck-on hosts a ho-ly, help-less thing;
 yet ex-per-ience ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im-prove.



Who would think, de-spite de-ri-sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta-bled beasts and pass-ing strang-ers watch a ba-by laid in hay:
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,



God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7

Cheri Ingraham

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"Manger Things"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
 yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
 and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God Emmanuel!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-14

Deb Waldron

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SHEPHERDS VISIT THE MANGER Luke 2:15-20

Lily Wolff

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER "A Blessing for Christmas" by Kate C. Bowler

Rev. Meghan Malone

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

OFFERTORY

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. You can also give through VENMO. Look for our Venmo QR codes by the offering plates. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

Alison Oswald

And so, with joy we offer ourselves in service, in union with Christ's offering for us. In faith, hope, and love, we now collect tonight's offering.

Offertory music "Gloria, Sing Gloria" – words & music by Cindy Berry

Chancel Choir

***Doxology for Christmas** (*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 & Gustav Holst, 1906*)

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

Olivia Miller

Accept these gifts and bring your kingdom here. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS OF LIGHT

Rev. Harry Buch

John 1:1-10, 14-46; 8:12

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (*Only unlit candles should be tipped*)

CAROL

"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

(Congregation may extinguish candles)

BENEDICTION *An Irish Christmas blessing*

The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of a home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son and God's peace to you. Amen!

***CAROL**

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***POSTLUDE** "Fanfare on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – Robert A. Hobby

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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POINSETTIAS



NAME

Bruce & Connie Anderson
Katherine Baker
The Bauer Family
Mary Bessick
Nancy Brintnall
The Burdick Family
Richard & Dorie Christy
Jan & Tad Coleman
Sue & Ken Dean
Edward L. Farnham
Mary Gresco
Diane Howard
Arnold & Cheri Ingraham
Arnold & Cheri Ingraham
Faye Jessie
Dick & Joyce Komjati
Karen Leidy
Karen Leidy
Karen Leidy
Pete & Alice Metzloff
Medith & Earle Olson
Lori Price
Dennis & Allayne Reese
Barb Rosen
Greg & Barb Shaffer
Bonnie Shuman
Jan & Chet Simmons
The Vilimonovic Family
Becky Weber

NAME OF DONOR

Katherine Baker
Alan Parkhurst
Ronald Sermak
The Vilimonovic Family
Anniversary The Bischof Family

IN MEMORY OF

Natoma Canfield
Rev. Jerald W. Baker
Louise Bauer & Alex Harnocz
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Dungen
Howard & Helen Gross
Edward Lichtenberg & Marilyn Burdick
MaryAnn Andrews & Sally Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Post
Parents
Helen W. Farnham
Nelson & Mary Chesler
Brian Howard
Berneta Ingraham
Bill & Carol Brenneman
Carl Jessie
Our Parents
Kitty & Bill Andrews
Thelma & Glenn Leidy
Sherry Fodor
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Husband, Mother, & Father
Loved Ones
Keith Rosen
Our Parents
My Mother
Jay Simmons
Dragisa & Anka Vilimonovic
Dave Weber and Our Parents

IN HONOR OF

Rachel Baker
All the church committee workers
Eric Jones & Our 24th Anniversary
Phil & Claire Nicholson's 55th Wedding





Merry Christmas



Ken Zuehlke approached me about an incredible project happening at Castle Noel. Mark and Dana Klaus had an idea to help folks in North Carolina who were devastated by Hurricane Helene this fall, especially around the Asheville area. Farmers from Medina, along with Keller Meats, Swine BBQ, and others, traveled there in a caravan to deliver food, help with livestock, clear debris, and provide relief. They built meaningful connections and have stayed in touch with these communities.

As the holidays approach, they realized that many families in NC wouldn't have the Christmas they're used to—they're still rebuilding, still waiting for restoration. So, the idea came about:

“What if we brought them to our Hallmark town and gave them a Christmas?”

It's happening! **“The Promise of Christmas”** will bring friends from NC to Medina from **January 10–12**. Castle Noel, the City of Medina, Main Street Medina, the Visitor Bureau, and the Chamber of Commerce are organizing a weekend full of love, laughter, and the magic of Christmas. Around 200–300 people are expected.

Here's where we come in: On **January 11**, our church, along with St. Paul's Episcopal, will host a dinner for our NC guests. We'll need 15 crockpots of soup. We'll need donations of hot coco and beverages. We'll need volunteers to serve as hosts and friendly faces to welcome them. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment!

This is restoration in action. And like in the Bible, restoration is not just personal—it's communal. Hosting our friends and neighbors, including some fellow Christians, is a way to restore their spirits after losing so much. And here in Medina, we'll experience restoration too. This is a chance to connect with real people, to rediscover hope in humanity—and perhaps even inspire you to sing your own song of restoration.

If you'd like to volunteer or sign up for soups and other items needed, [click this link for the sign-up genius](#) with what is needed. You may also contact the office.



P+K Bible Study

**MONDAYS 2+7 P.M.
STARTING 1/13/25**

New Library

As we begin our exploration of **The Prophet and the King**, we embark on a journey through some of the most formative and compelling narratives in Scripture. Together, we will reflect on the intertwined stories of Samuel, the prophet, and David, the king. Through their lives, we will discern what it means to be prophetic voices and faithful leaders, even amidst human vulnerability and imperfection.

Our Resources

To enrich our study, we will draw insights from the New Interpreters Bible, a resource known for its balanced approach to historical context, theological depth, and practical application. Additionally, we will lean on the scholarship of Bruce Birch, a preeminent voice on the ethics and theology of Old Testament narratives. Birch's work will guide us as we reflect on themes of covenantal leadership, power, and repentance in the stories of Samuel and David.

Series Structure

The study will follow the progression of our sermon series, starting in January with the life of Samuel and transitioning in February to David's rise and reign. Each session will correspond to the upcoming weekly sermon text, giving us an opportunity to dig deeper into the Scripture and themes. You may even hear your insights from the pulpit! Series ends February 24, 2025.

