

December 30, 2018 – 10:00 am

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



Luke 2:41-52

ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV. LAVON BAYLER
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- **\*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**

### PRELUDE “Yuletide Greetings” Chester Nordman

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:** Based on Psalm 148

One: Men and women, old and young, together:  
Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

**MANY: Praise God in the highest heavens.**

**Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.**

One: God commanded, and we were created.  
God sustains us and enables us to grow.

**MANY: Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness. Glorify God’s name and join the loving community.**

One: Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved. We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

**MANY: Let us draw close to God and to one another. Let us join with all creation to worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 107**

**“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**Height and breadth, length and depth, the whole universe proclaims your glory, faithful God. Your wisdom fills the universe with possibilities we have not**

**tapped. Your Word comes to us filled with riches we have not mined. Within ourselves is the potential for greatness as yet unrealized. Confront us here with your eternal claim on us that we may become the kind, compassionate, and patient people you intend for us to be. Amen.**

Let us give our thanks and praise to our Gracious God.

**\*GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

**Lay Liturgist**

**EPISTLE READING:**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

**Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL READING:**

**Luke 2:41-52**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**SERMON:**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"**

Words on screen

**PASTORAL PRAYER:** Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: Verse 3 "Away in a Manger"**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**INVITATION TO SHARE:** In the name of Jesus Christ, we respond to God's forgiveness and empowerment with thanksgiving and praise. As we have been blessed, so we share. May our offerings express compassion and kindness within our faith community and in our outreach to our immediate surroundings and to the world.

**OFFERTORY: "Away in a Manger" Eugene McCluskey**

**\*DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**We are thankful for the love that gave us life, for the mission that gives purpose to our days, and for the**

peace that Christ grants to us. Keep us from needless anxiety, that we may give without counting the cost. We give ourselves as well as our money, that your Word may spread where it is not known and take root where it has not been heeded. Amen.

\*SENDING HYMN: “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”  
Words on Screen

\*RESPONSIVE COMMISSION AND BLESSING:

One: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.  
Teach and admonish one another to all wisdom.

**MANY: We will spend time in study and prayer.**

**We will listen and speak as God inspires us.**

One: Put on – as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved – compassion, kindness, meekness, and patience.

**MANY: We will forgive as we have been forgiven by God. We will put on love that binds us in perfect harmony.**

One: The peace of Christ will rule in your hearts.  
You will know God’s favor day after day.

**MANY: We will praise God’s name in all we do.**

**We will join with faithful people to give daily thanks. Amen. Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE: “The Song of Bethlehem”  
Randolph Livingston