

ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Finding the magic of Christmas in ordinary objects.



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

First Sunday After Christmas ~ December 31, 2023

Ellen Johnson, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Accompanist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE ~ Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC

We Are Glad You Are Here! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Join us following worship for Fellowship Hour. There will be yummy refreshments and coffee and lots of *friendly faces*.

***Note: L - denotes worship "Leader"; P - denotes "People"**

~FAITH ON THE GO~

You can contact Pastor Clarissa at any time: you're going into the hospital; you would like a prayer said for you; you are not able to come to church for more than a month; you have a question or concern about something at church; your conscience is troubling you and you want assurance of God's grace; you're wrestling with a spiritual issue or have a question about something the Bible says; you have a friend or relative who wants to know more about Jesus; fellowship with the Pastor. This is not an exhaustive list. You can certainly contact Pastor Clarissa at other times too. In addition to Pastor Clarissa, Ellen Johnson, as our Lay Servant, is available to assist you in these needs as well. Their contact information:

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673.

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE:

"Adagio"

Clement Broughton

GREETING:

Pastor: The “Advent in Plain Sight” object: **HEARTS**. Mary listened as the shepherds shared all they have been told about her infant. Mary treasured them and pondered them in her **HEART**. On this first Sunday after Christmas, we come to ponder within our **HEARTS** the mysteries of God’s calling. As a New Year is dawning, take **HEARTS**; each of us is God’s own and no infirmity, limitation or vulnerability will separate us from the love of God. Take **HEART**-child of God – in 2024, you are not on this journey alone. Take **HEART**.

CENTERING MUSIC:

“God Walks Beside Me”

Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: 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.

P: We watch and work for God’s kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: 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.

P: We watch and work for God’s kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: 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.

P: We watch and work for God’s kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

P: Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God’s kin-dom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

All: 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 by 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. (*Silence is kept*)

L: Friends, let us prepare to enter the New Year with **HEARTS** that have been unburdened, and let us make our confession before God and one another, first in silent prayer.

All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240

~WE PROCLAIM~

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Psalm 51:6-12 (responsively)**

L: We open our hearts to your Holy Word. Let it be a personal word, whispered in our ears, your gentle voice, calling us into your loving embrace. Let this be a fresh moving of your Holy Spirit. Use it to transform the way we think, the way we perceive, the way we believe, and the way we live as we strive to eagerly follow Christ our Lord into 2024. **Amen.**

All: and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY:

“ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT - HEARTS”

Pastor Clarissa

~PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS~

Pastor: Lord in your mercy:

People: hear our prayer.

~PASTORAL PRAYER~

Pastor: Let us pray in unison the prayer Jesus taught us:

All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

~FIFTH SUNDAY POPCORN & A MOVIE~

“A Charlie Brown Christmas”

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

***DOXOLOGY:**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All: God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, we have listened with our ears that we might not miss you, and our eyes have seen your salvation! You gave us light in our darkness

and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH 117

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Beloved of God, depart now in peace, knowing that you have encountered Christ, our Savior. Go now to watch, to wait, and to spread the light of Christ to the ends of the world, that God's kin-dom might reign on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Pastor:

Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you without blemish before the presence of God's glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forevermore. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***POSTLUDE:**

“Processional for the New Year”

George Blake