

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Special thanks to those contributing their time and talents.

Led by: Pastor Don Dunn  
Choir Director: Margaret Treiber  
Praise Team: Carla Ryan, Vocals  
Bob Del Mar, Guitar  
Betsy Pecka, Piano  
Joseph Hernandez, Vocals

AOD: Ed Rogers  
Usher: Bob Bluhm  
Greeter: Bob Bluhm  
Liturgist: Ann Chandler  
Coffee Hour: Tura Yount  
Counters: Linda Bryant-Smith &  
Marilyn Grass

Memory Café: NA  
Snack: NA  
Greeters: NA

### Servers for Next Sunday, January 5th

AOD: Ed Rogers  
Usher: Bob Bluhm  
Greeter: Bob Bluhm  
Liturgist: Ann Chandler  
Coffee Hour: Tura Yount  
Counters: Linda Bryant-Smith &  
Marilyn Grass

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 29, 2019– 9:45am



He settled in  
a city called  
**Nazareth,**  
so that what was  
spoken through the  
prophets  
might be fulfilled..

— Matthew 2:23, CEB



The United Methodist Church of Ephrata

"We Serve God by Serving Others"



**WELCOME TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF EPHRATA!**

If this is your first time with us we'd like to thank you for visiting! If you did not receive a Welcome Brochure from a greeter when you entered be sure to pick one up from an usher as you leave. The brochure has more information on our church and its ministries.

At the time of our offering do not feel pressure to put anything in the offering plate. While you are welcome to give, you are our guest and we simply want you to enjoy your time with us!

**Hearing assistance available.** If you are hearing impaired and would like to use an assisted listening device, please request one from the ushers.

**Prayer requests cards** are located in the pew box. If you have a need or celebration, fill out the card and place it in the offering plate.

**Please join us** for refreshments and fellowship after the worship service.

**.OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor.....Don Dunn, [pastor@umcephrata.org](mailto:pastor@umcephrata.org)  
Admin. Assistant.....Tresa Poe, [office@umcephrata.org](mailto:office@umcephrata.org)  
Custodian.....Jamie Downing  
Pianist.....Betsy Pecka  
Chaplain.....Penny Clees

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Office (509) 754-4664

Website: [www.umcephrata.org](http://www.umcephrata.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/umcofeprhata.org](https://www.facebook.com/umcofeprhata.org)

Church office hours are Mon- Wed 9am-1pm, Thurs 9am-12pm

**Happening Today!**

Worship, 9:45am

***Garden Oasis Service,  
3pm***

**Monday, December 30**

**Office Closed**

**Tuesday, December 31**

**Office Closed**

***No Quilters***

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Office Closed  
Bible Study, 2pm**

**Thursday, January 2**

**Office Closed**

**Pastor Gone**

**Friday, January 3**

**Office Closed**

**Saturday, January 4**

**Men's Breakfast, 8:30am**

**Sunday, January 5**

Worship, 9:45am

***Advent Food  
Box Collection***



- Quilters Jan 07
- Grief Support Group, 6pm Jan 07
- Caregivers, 10am Jan 08
- Bible Study, 2pm Jan 08
- Church Council, 5:15pm Jan 08



**Celebrating Birthdays In December:**  
Darryl Pheasant (30th)

**Celebrating an Anniversary in December:**  
Alan & Mark Fulk, (29th) - 30 years  
Tom & Vi Baars, (31st) - 8 years

**Celebrating Birthdays In January:**  
Lonny Holleman (4th), Jeffrey DuGuay (4th), Vera Senn (9th),  
Victoria Ryan (13th), Al Treiber (20th), Ken Slininger (27th),  
Elenora Roloff (28th)

**Celebrating an Anniversary in January:**  
Shad & Jamie Downing (11th) - 17 years

## *Announcements...*

- The office will be closed this week while Tresa takes a little time off. She can still be reached on her cell phone if needed (509) 398-2599 and email.
- Men's Breakfast will be this Saturday at 8:30am. Please join us if you are able.
- His Helping Hands of the Ephrata Foursquare Church. New distribution center location is 110 W. Division St. (Old Haley's Office Supply). Open Saturdays & Mondays through January 31st from 10am to 2pm. Donations of winter clothing & gear, blankets, sleeping bags, and hygiene products are gratefully accepted.



Welcome, on this final Sunday of 2019, as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season during worship.

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Announcements & Friendship Pads

### Call to Worship

ONE: We recount the gracious deeds of God,  
all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**ALL: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

ONE: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer  
of our salvation.

**ALL: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

ONE: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up  
and carrying us.

**ALL: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

### Opening Prayer

**Hymn: (Hymnal) #141 "O Sing A Song Of Bethlehem"**

### Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters,  
Jesus became like us in every respect  
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest  
in the service of God.

As we confess our sins,  
we come before One who was also tested by what  
he suffered,  
confident that he is able to help us.

## Prayer List for the Week

### Prayers for Health, Healing and Well-Being:

- Rayce & Tiffany Barnes
- Tabatha
- Julea Dunn
- Marie Marsh
- Dick Ross
- Francie Hernandez
- Shirley Johnson
- Kathleen Neuberger
- Kierra Smith
- Jeremy Warren
- Mark Neihenke



### Prayer requests for long term health problems:

Bob St. Clair Jr, Ed Sivula, Ron Gardner, Steven Grass, Brian Davisson, Renee Muse, Al Davisson, Steve Smith, Justin Townley, Gail Catlow, Joe Hatch, Eleanor Gausman, Dan Anderson, Randy Senn, Ed Warren, Marlene Fisk Warren, David Prince, Abbie Thorndike, Dennis Ackerman, Amy Torrens-Harry, Eric Moulton, Mike Dell, Tom Pheasant, Jessica Smith

**Prayers for our military personnel at home, abroad, and their families:** Chris Wash, Kevin Harmon, Michael Oliveira

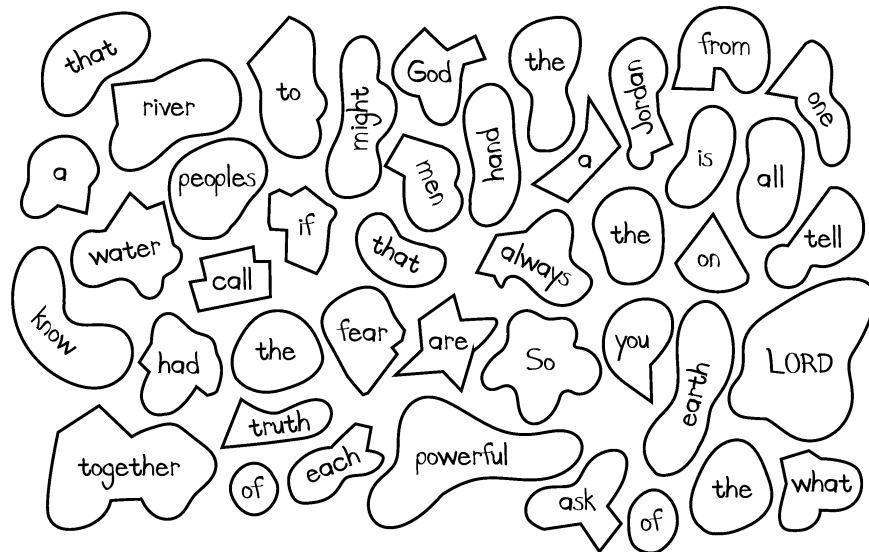




# Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

## Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children.

We confess that we have not loved you as we should.

We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans;

we grow weary and give up when the way is hard.

We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend.

Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity.

Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children

so vulnerable and precious in your sight.

Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation.

Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.

Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing.

Set us free from fear

that we may wholly trust in you.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

**Scripture:** Psalm 148

**\*Hymn: (TFWS) #2095** “Star Child”

**Scripture:** Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matthew 2:13-23

*Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

**All: Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

**Message:** “Joseph’s Quick Thinking!”

**Affirmation of Faith: Hymnal Page 883**

**Prayers of the People/Lords Prayer**

**Hymn: (Hymnal) #229** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn: (TFWS) #2100** “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” V 1,2,3

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Please join us for fellowship  
and refreshments after worship!!!*



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Like many immigrants today, Joseph took his family across the border when they were in danger. Though they eventually returned to their home country, danger was still a present possibility. In what ways did Jesus, in his life and ministry, threaten those who held power in his day? How are we, as we practice the Christian life among present powers, challenging violence and injustice today? What dream or vision do you have for the world Christ came to save?



### **BLESSING**

May God the Creator,  
Christ the Savior,  
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate,  
guard your going out and your coming in;  
and be your strength and help  
in every time of need.