

# First United Methodist Church of Elgin

December 27, 2020

**Prelude**

**Dr. Mindy Pugh**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy**

**Call to Worship**

**Cindy Palm, Lay Servant**

God is here! Christ is born to you...to you!

Let Him take your broken heart and give you His warmed one.

Let Him take your broken body and give you His fresh Spirit.

Let Him take your burden-broken back and give you weightlessness.

Let Him be your enough—always now, no matter what...

Let Him be your enough.

Christ came into the world for you,

And you came into the world for Him.

**Opening Hymn**

**“Joy to the World ”**

**Matthew Weber**

*United Methodist Hymnal #246*

**Prayer**

**Cindy Palm, Lay Servant**

*Father God, let us not forget that the Christmas story does not end in the stable but that we are called to carry it onward. Transform our hearts and minds that there may be justice and peace throughout all creation. As we close the pages of one year and begin the next chapter of our lives may we grow in faith, in wisdom and closer to you each and every day. We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...*

*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 and lead us not into*

*temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.*

# First United Methodist Church of Elgin

December 27, 2020

Offertory

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”

Matthew Weber

Scripture Readings

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Luke 2:25 - 40 (MSG)

<sup>25-32</sup> In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant;  
release me in peace as you promised.  
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;  
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:  
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,  
and of glory for your people Israel.

<sup>33-35</sup> Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother,

This child marks both the failure and  
the recovery of many in Israel,  
A figure misunderstood and contradicted—  
the pain of a sword-thrust through you—  
But the rejection will force honesty,  
as God reveals who they really are.

<sup>36-38</sup> Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fasting and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.

<sup>39-40</sup> When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

# First United Methodist Church of Elgin

December 27, 2020

Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Meditation

Dr. Mindy Pugh

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

## **“Until We See It”** John 17:15-26 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you taken out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

<sup>20</sup>My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup>Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup>Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

**First United Methodist Church of Elgin**

December 27, 2020

**Closing Hymn**

**“O, Come All Ye Faithful”**  
*United Methodist Hymnal #246*

**Matthew Weber**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy**

**Response**

**“As We Go”**  
*Worship & Song #3183*

**Matthew Weber**

**Postlude**

**Dr. Mindy Pugh**

