

# CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

centerportumc.org

ONLINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2020

## COVENANT SERVICE

### WELCOME AND BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Even as we turn the calendar, it is still Christmas: Joy has come to the world. Love is lodged in our hearts, and peace is our hope. Though the presents are now unwrapped, we continue to celebrate the greatest gift of all. Praise the One whose glory the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth, peace and goodwill among all people."

OPENING HYMN # 238 (v. 1-3)      *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*      United Methodist Hymnal

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

*Refrain:* 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? (*Refrain*)

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

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Holy Spirit, shine on us with your Wisdom. Let your Word take root and grow in our lives, that we may be filled with your love and share it with all. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READING

#### PSALM 100

*All Lands Summoned to Praise God*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

PRAYER HYMN # 249 (v. 1, 3 & 4)      *"There's a Song in the Air"*      United Methodist Hymnal

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled; and that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing, in the homes of the nations, that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song,  
That comes down through the night, from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle, our Savior and King!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We thank you, God, for your great love for us; for the many blessings we enjoy above our deserving, hoping, or asking. You have been so good to us, even when we have failed. We bow our heads in humble thankfulness of heart. We worship You, who are infinite love, compassion, and power. Accept our offerings, our praise, and our "Thank You" this day; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## COVENANT SERVICE

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins to God. O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship, and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Let each of us in silence make confession to God.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me of my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen. Thanks be to God.

### COVENANT

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant, and through baptism, we bear his name. On the one side, God promises in this promise to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves, but for God. Today, therefore, we meet as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with us and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward. Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests, others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us power to do all these things. Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in God's promises and relying on God's grace.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Draw Me Nearer"

Meredith Andrews

Kristina Manzano, soloist

For your nearness Lord I hunger, for your nearness Lord I wait  
Hold me ever closer Father, such a love I can't escape  
For your nearness I am hoping, for your nearness Lord I long  
Have no need of any other, I have found where I belong, yes, I have found where I belong

*Chorus:* So draw me nearer Lord, never let me go,  
Closer to your heart, draw me nearer Lord, draw me nearer Lord

In your nearness there is healing, what was broken now made whole  
Restoration in its fullness, lasting hope for all who come  
In your nearness I take shelter, where you are is where I'm home  
I have need of only one thing, to be here before your throne, to be here before you throne (*Chorus*)

And keep me here, keep me here, there's nowhere else I rather be  
So keep me here, keep me here, there's nowhere else I rather be, there's nowhere else I rather be  
(*Chorus*)

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER

Let me be your servant, O Lord, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. O glorious and blessed God, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.