

**A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
FOR  
NEW YEAR'S DAY AND THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A United Church of Christ**

**January 1, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

**A New Year's Prayer for the Journey**

*For all that has been,  
Thanks!  
For all that will be,  
Yes!*

Dag Hammarskjöld  
U.N. Secretary-General (1953-1961)

**WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!**

*We're glad you're here this morning! Children and youth are invited to share in the service. For our littlest ones, coloring books are available. As you enter the Sanctuary, we invite you to enter a time of silent reflection and prayer to prepare for worship. Also, please turn off your cell phone so you and others can truly be in God's presence. Thank you. Again, welcome.*

**WE GATHER**

*(May the first note of the piano be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.)*

Gathering Music

*Theme and Variations*

William Byrd

\*Introit

***Joy to the World***

Isaac Watts/Antioch

***Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth its praises bring;  
Let every heart prepare Christ room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

Welcome and Sharing of our Life and Ministry

Breathing in God's Gifts of Peace, Hope, and Love

\*A Time for Greeting and Regathering

***Joy to the World***

Isaac Watts/Antioch

***Joy to the world! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hill, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

Welcoming of Visitors and Breathing in God's Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

*Rejoice, Rejoice*

Marty Haugen

The Call to Worship from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights!  
Praise God, all the angels;  
praise God, all the host!

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
praise God, all you shining stars!  
Praise God, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

**Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

All peoples and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and women alike, old and young together!  
**Praise the Lord!**

**WE PREPARE**

## \*A Prayer of Invocation

Holy are you, O God of all knowledge, the source of learning in the world.

**Holy are you, O God of learning, the source of dreams for a better tomorrow.**

Holy are you, O God of dreams, the source of vision for a hungry people.

**Holy are you, O God of vision, who inspires us to turn our dreams into deeds.**

Holy God, open us again to your teaching and wisdom.

**Renew our vision and give us the courage to turn that vision into hope for our world. Amen**

## \*A Time of Silent Prayer and an Affirmation of Faith

## \*A Song of Praise

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*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (vs. 3-4)

Rejoice, Rejoice

**WE ENGAGE**

## A Reading for the First Sunday of Christmastide

Isaiah 63:7-9

*De las misericordias del Señor haré memoria,  
de las alabanzas del Señor,  
conforme a todo lo que Señor nos ha dado,  
y de la grandeza de sus beneficios hacia  
la casa de Israel,  
que les ha hecho según sus misericordias  
y según la abundancia de sus piedades.  
8Porque él me dijo: «Ciertamente, mi pueblo son,  
hijos que no mienten.»  
Y fue su salvador.  
En toda angustia de ellos él fue angustiado,  
y el ángel de su faz los salvó;  
en su amor y en su clemencia los redimió,  
los trajo y los levantó  
todos los días de la antigüedad.*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that God has shown them according to great mercy,  
according to the abundance of God's steadfast love.  
For the Lord said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and God became their savior in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but God's presence that saved them;  
in love and in pity God redeemed them;  
the Lord lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

A Carol 433

*In the Bulb There is a Flower* (1-2)

Natalie Sleeth/Promise

## A Reflection

*Time to Recount*

## A Time of Silent Reflection

*What are the gracious deeds of the Lord you can recount?*

Carol 130

*From Heaven unto Earth I Come*

Martin Luther/Vom Himmel Hoch

**WE RESPOND**

## Sharing the Gift of Communion

## The Story of this Feast

## Welcoming One Another and Giving Thanks to God

Brothers and sisters, in the stable of Bethlehem and at this table, God comes to offer new life and abundant love. Let us come to receive those gifts.

**We come to be renewed by God's spirit. We come to be transformed by God's love.**

In a time of exile, God gave the Israelites a vision of hope. In their hard and fearful time, God led Mary and Joseph on the path of hope.

**Through the lonely and fearsome places of our own lives, God leads us to this table  
to be fed and strengthened with bread and cup.**

Therefore let us keep this feast, welcoming one another, and offering our thanks to God.

## The Prayer of Blessing and the Lord's Prayer

Once again in this holy season, O God,  
we have heard your words of promise spoken by Isaiah long ago;  
Every valley shall be exalted...  
and the crooked places made straight.

*Lord, even in the high and holy days of this season,  
there have been valleys of shadows and places where the journey was rough.  
We know the year ahead will have such challenges, too.*

Even as we rejoice in a new year,  
we know we are still ourselves,  
your dreaming, hoping children who can yet stumble and fall,  
go far astray along the way.

*And so we pray:  
make our crooked places straight--by your power, not our own.*

Exalt the valleys of our lostness  
and loneliness with your love.

*By way of Bethlehem, lead us, O Lord, in the new year ahead to newness of life;  
By the innocence of the Christ Child, renew our simple trust;*

By the shepherd's watch, open our eyes to the signs of your coming;  
By the Wise Ones' journey, keep our searching spirits from fainting;

*And by the shining of a star, guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Bless now, by your Word and Spirit, these your gifts of bread and cup.  
Bless each of us and all of us who share this feast.

*And when the feast is over,  
the last gift is opened,  
the final carol sung,  
stay with us and stay for us  
and hold us in your newborn  
yet eternal arms forever.*

We pray all this in the name of the Child of Bethlehem, who makes all things new and who taught us to pray  
together with boldness, courage, and trust saying:

*(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer)*

## The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*(All are welcome to share in Communion. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, hold your palm flat to receive the bread, take the cup, and return to your seat by the next aisle. Please wait to eat or drink until you are in your seat. For a non-gluten wafer, please let the server know. Again, all are welcome!)*

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the gifts we have received here. Send us now into your world in courage and peace. Lead us into this new year on your paths of hope and peace. Give us the will to walk in your ways *de amore y justicia*. We pray in the name of *Jesús el Cristo, Emmanuel, Dios-con-nosotros*. Amen.**

## WE GO OUT IN PEACE

\*Hymn                    434                    *All Beautiful the March of Days*                    Frances W. Wile/Forest Green

\*Benediction

\*Musical Benediction                    *Kyrie Eleison* (3x)                    Ukrainian Orthodox Chant



