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January 4, 2026
Second Sunday of Christmas

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Gratitude

In Awe—Stopped by a Star

United in Christ's love, a just world for all

Sacrament of Holy Communion

January 4, 2026

Singing Prelude

One Bread, One Body

One Bread, One Body

Refrain (Unison)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,

one cup of blessing which we bless. And

we, though many, through-out the earth,

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

WORDS and MUSIC: John B. Foley, 1978

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY
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44.6 w. refrain

$\text{♩} = 104-112$

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Bringing in the Light of Christ

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Nicolai

*Responsive Call to Worship

Rev. Bob Zittel

Rise and shine — the Light is revealed.
Look! God's dwelling is now among us.
From the sea comes abundance,
 from the desert comes hope;
 all creation moves toward joy.

**Like frankincense, we offer our prayers,
 that our longing may breathe with God's longing,
 that our voices rise with all who seek peace.**

Like myrrh, we offer compassion—
 balm for the broken, mercy for the wounded.

Where rivalries have ruled, grace now gathers;
 the scattered come home, nations share their treasures

Let us desire what God desires—

**life for all creation,
 justice that sets every captive free,
 and joy where justice is fulfilled.**

For the end of God's justice is joy.

The end of God's compassion is peace.

Look! God's dwelling is now among us.

*Prayer of Praise

Radiant and Revealing God,
You dwell not in temples or thrones but among us—
 in caravans of mercy,
 in the faces of those returning home,
 in the shimmering abundance of the sea.

**You are the star that stirs our seeking,
 the Presence that refuses to be hidden,
 the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike.**

As we gather,
 let your justice take root in our hearts,
 your joy rise on our lips,

your compassion steady our hands,
and your peace settle upon this world you so dearly love.
Lift our eyes, O Holy One, so that we may see as you see—
creation radiant, humanity restored, and your dwelling now among us.
Amen.

***Hymn** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* (inside back page)

Celebrating the Light of the World *Boxed*
from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* poem by Ann Weems

Congregational Sung Response *Dream, Dream, Dream* Gotsch
TUNE: *Still, Still, Still* Austrian Folk Song
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One who dwells among us,
You call us to rise, to see, and to rejoice—
yet too often we turn inward, protecting our comfort instead of pursuing your justice.
When your radiance invites us to lift our eyes, we close them against the pain of the world.
When your abundance flows like the sea, we grasp rather than share.
When your caravans of mercy draw near, we hesitate to join the journey.

Forgive us, O God.

Lift us once more into your light of love.
Transform the fear that keeps us small
into courage that acts with compassion.
Renew the weariness that dims our hope
into joy that moves us toward peace.

Amen.

***Words of Grace**

People of God, hear this good news:
In every act of justice, in every gesture of compassion,
in every moment of peace, Christ is revealed.
Look! God's dwelling is now among us.
By grace, we are made new.
Amen.

***Response**

A Star Shone Bright
TUNE: *The Gift of Love*

Garland

**A star shone bright across the plain,
And calmed the earth so love could reign.
‘Twas in a child that hope was born,
A dream fulfilled! O happy morn!**

**O star shine forth, once more this night,
And flood our streets with heav’ny Light;
‘til every heart in Christ shall see
The glory of eternity!**

We Encounter God in the Word

First Lesson

Psalm 127

NRSVue

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

I Wonder As I Wander
Sue Jack, Soloist

Amer. Folk Hymn/coll. Niles

Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

NRSVue

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Gratitude
“Stopped by a Star”

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

We Respond to God’s Grace

Congregational Prayers

Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and Our Lord’s Prayer (sung)

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

We Share God’s Love

Invitation to Generosity

Song of GratitudeDoxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Holy One, receive the gifts we share.
Turn them toward compassion,
stretch them toward peace,
and let your joy be known through all we do.

Invitation to Holy Communion

So, together, we come to this table to be nourished by the bread that gives us life.

We gather to eat the bread and drink of the cup

that fills us with God's abundant love,
that reforms us to be a reflection
of God's original blessing, and
that reconnects us to God, God's creation,
and each other.

*(The ministers and servers will prepare the elements;
the congregation is then invited to come and receive the bread and the cup.
If you cannot come but wish to receive, the servers will come to you.)*

Communion Meditation*Star of the East*

Kennedy

We Go to Carry the Light***Hymn***For the Beauty of the Earth* (back page)***Blessing and Benediction*****Sending Blessing***Christ, Be Our Light*

Farrell

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Postlude*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Walter

Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the Light of Christ
is carried into the world. The worship has ended; our service begins.

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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Senior Minister

Rev. Barbara Dickason

Music Staff

Barbara Quinn: Music Director

Lynda Weston: Bella Handbell Director

Other Staff

Gary Leidheiser: Custodian

Barb Quinn: Office Assistant

Church office hours are Mon.-Thurs., 9-1

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For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re-newed,



Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.



Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these
verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day
when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

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Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Worship materials are taken from
Raised Above: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year A
by Maria Mankin;
Lift Up: Service Prayers for Epiphany Year A
by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard

Supporting Our Service Today

Acolyte: Bella Clapham **Liturgist:** Rev. Bob Zittel
Song Leader: Sue Jack **Communion Steward:** Marilyn Schwab
Welcome Table: Sandy Barrie **Greeter:** Barbara Allaire
Head Usher: Wendy Seeley **Usher Team:** John Brex, Nancy Brex,
Bonnie Thistle, Don Worthington, Judy Worthington

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton,
Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine
The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by Patty Fjetland
in Celebration of Linda Newton's Birthday

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani
Sunday Librarian: Pat Fischer
Fellowship Time: Mel Burrowes and Helen Markus

This Week at a Glance

Monday, January 5

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtfaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

2:00 PM Women's Fellowship Board - CR

6:30 PM Bridge - Parlor

Tues. 01-06

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Take down sanctuary/**Naar Hall**
Christmas decorations - volunteers needed
2:00 PM Women's Fellowship Board—CR
6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Wed. 01-07

9:00 AM-12:00 Library open
10:00 AM Bible Study - CR
10:00 AM Floralia - Naar Hall
1:00 PM Cut-Ups - CR
3:30 PM Youth Bell Ringers
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM NAMI - CR

Thurs. 01-08

10:00 AM Garden Club - Naar Hall
10:00 AM AAUW - Sanctuary
4:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Fri. 01-09

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee at Panera
9:00 AM Knit Wits

Sun. 01-11 Third Sunday of Christmas

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
9:00-9:45 AM Library Hour
10:00 AM Worship (in situ and virtual)
After Worship Fellowship Time - Naar Hall
Prospective new members meet in the parlor;
Mission Fair in Naar Hall
11:00-11:15 AM Library Time

Coming Events (partial list)

- Sunday, January 11, Mission Fair—Naar Hall
Prospective new members meet in parlor after worship
- Tuesday, January 20, Women's Trip to Spanish Point in Osprey
 - Sunday, January 25, CROP Walk
- 5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 27, Word Made Flesh Dinner, Naar Hall
- 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, January 31, Venice Garden Club Flower Show—Naar Hall
 - Friday/Saturday, February 6-7, Venice Coin Club Show—Naar Hall
 - Sunday, February 8, On the Spot Mission Moment
- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Saturday, February 14, Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
- February 21-22, "Handbell Weekend" with guest ringers from Winter Haven
Rehearsals on Saturday; play in worship on Sunday
Soup-a-thon after worship
- CROP Walk
- Saturday, February 28, Christian Education Event TBA
- Sunday, March 8, Immokalee Sunday with Alan Penick