

## Worship Service on December 31, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements** ~ Glenna Taxter

**Monday** ~ Happy New Year!

**Thursday** ~ The Interfaith Council will be meeting at 11:45 am  
at Dorset Church.

**Next Sunday** ~ Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor will be sharing the message for  
Epiphany and we will celebrate Communion in the service.

**Looking Ahead** ~ Alpha for families will be starting on Sunday,  
January 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Schedules are available for you.

Pastor Rebecca Sommons will be out of town for the week,  
and you can call Rev. Theresa or one of the deacons  
if you have any pastoral care needs.



Happy Birthday to Linda Hulett yesterday  
and to Barb West on Tuesday!

Happy Anniversary to Rosemary and Dave Hall on Wednesday

### ***Poinsettia Dedications***

<i>From:</i>	<i>in loving memory of:</i>
<i>Russ and Glenna Taxter</i>	<i>Russell Sr. and Dorothy Taxter</i>
<i>Linell and Jerry Pike</i>	<i>Everett and Grace R. Hazelton</i>
	<i>Paul and Nellie Pike</i>
	<i>Nelson and Erna Caron</i>
<i>Alvie McKinstry</i>	<i>Alvie and Janet McKinstry</i>
<i>Barb and Jim West</i>	<i>Cora and Lewis West</i>
	<i>Miriam and Paul Wertman</i>
	<i>Mark George</i>
<i>Martha Thompson</i>	<i>Matt Thompson</i>
<i>Jim and Cathy Comar</i>	<i>Ken and Mary Jean Pierce</i>
	<i>Pete, Bev, and Judy Comar</i>

**Word of Preparation** ~ Glenna Taxter

**Prelude** ~ Barb West will play *“There’s a Song in the Air”*  
while we prepare our hearts for worship.

**Call to Worship ~ Luke 8:16-18 (TPT)** read by Glenna Taxter  
Please join in reading the bold lines.

(Jesus said ) “No one lights a lamp and then hides it,  
**covering it over or putting it where no one sees its light.**

No, he places the lamp on a lampstand  
**so others benefit from its brightness.**

Because this revelation lamp now shines within you,  
**nothing will be hidden from you—it will all be revealed.**

Every secret of the kingdom will be unveiled and out in the open,  
**made known by the revelation-light.**

So pay careful attention to your hearts  
as you listen to my teaching,  
**for to those who have open hearts,**  
**even more revelation will be given to them until it overflows.**

And for those who do not listen with open hearts,  
**what little light they imagine themselves to have**  
**will be taken away.”**

**Song ~** The worship team will lead us in singing

**“For Unto Us a Child is Born / Open the Eyes of My Heart”**

*For unto us a child is born  
A Son is given, a Son is given  
For unto us a child is born  
A Son is given, a Son is given  
The Messiah, oh to see Him*

**Chorus**

***To see Him high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy  
[repeat verse and chorus]  
You are high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy  
For unto us a child is born  
Holy, holy, holy  
[sing 3 times]***

CCLI Song # 7100943

George Frideric Handel | Michael Rossback | Paul Baloche

Integrity Worship Music; Integrity's Hosanna! Music;

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**Praying Together ~**

**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 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**

**Song ~ “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (#150 in the blue hymnal)**

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; heil the incarnate Deity  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

Words ~ Charles Wesley, 1739 Music ~ Felix Mendelssohn, 1840 | Public Domain

**Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca**

**Scripture Text ~ Luke 2:22-40 (NIV) read by Glenna Taxter**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites  
required by the Law of Moses,  
Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord,  
“Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping  
with what is said in the Law of the Lord:  
“a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon,  
who was righteous and devout.  
He was waiting for the consolation of Israel,  
and the Holy Spirit was on him.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit  
that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.  
When the parents brought in the child Jesus  
to do for him the custom of the Law required,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

<sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

<sup>31</sup> *which you have prepared  
in the sight of all nations:*

<sup>32</sup> *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”*

(Continued on the next page)

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother:  
This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.  
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna,  
the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was very old;

she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

<sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day,  
fasting and praying.

<sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment,  
she gave thanks to God  
and spoke about the child to all  
who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required  
by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee  
to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong;  
he was filled with wisdom,  
and the grace of God was on him.

**Sermon~ “Seeing and Sharing the Light”**

**~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons**

**Song ~ “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (#164 in the blue hymnal)**

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!*

*Listen now to what we say:*

*News! News! Jesus Christ is born today*

*Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now*

*Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!*

*Now you hear of endless bliss:*

*Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!*

*He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest for evermore*

*Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!*

*Now you need not fear the grave:*

*Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save*

*Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Words ~ Latin (14<sup>th</sup> century) Music ~ German melody (14<sup>th</sup> century) | Public Domain

**Sung Benediction by the choir ~ “A Christmas Blessing of Peace”**

