

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH AND FOR JESUS

The Friendly Beasts UMH# 227

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH# 95

SINGING THE GOOD NEWS *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* UMH# 251

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:28-32*

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Merry Christmas! Ponder the Party of Christ's Birth!

See and Share His Light!

**If able, please stand.*

A special thank to the angels of earth who help us, with their musical gifts, sing God's good news all year long: Jennifer Brubaker, Pam Messenger, and the Highland Choir.

Highland United Methodist Church

Christmas Day, 2016

PRELUDE

GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS MORNING *Isaiah 9:2, 6, Luke 1:78-79*

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined....
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
Merry Christmas! **Merry Christmas!**

SHARING THE PEACE and JOY OF CHRISTmas

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATING SPECIAL DAYS

POEM “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

RINGING THE BELL

*SINGING THE GOOD NEWS *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UMH#240, v. 1 and 3

***PRAYER**

Give us, O God, the vision which can see thy love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust the goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each one of us can do to set forth the coming of the day of universal peace. Amen.

(Christmas Day prayer by Apollo 8 astronaut Frank Borman, 1968)

GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS MORNING *Luke 1:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.**

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

SINGING THE GOOD NEWS *He is Born*

UMH #228

GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS MORNING *Luke 1:8-20*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**

SERMON *In the Morning Light, Pondering after the Party* *Rev. Amy Pannell*

***SINGING THE GOOD NEWS** *What Child is This*

UMH#219

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE