



Worship Celebration

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 27, 2020 + 11 AM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 11 AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Monday—Friday at 9 am (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7 pm (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Opening Song

One Small Child

***One small Child in a land of a thousand, one small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small city of life.***

***One king bringing his gold and riches, one King ruling an army of might,
one king kneeling with incense and candlelight, one King bringing us life.***

***See him lying, a cradle beneath him; see him smiling in the stall.
See his mother praising his Father; see his tiny eyelids fall.***

***One small light from the flame of a candle, one small light from a city of might,
one small light from the stars in the endless night, one small light from a face.***

***See the shepherd kneeling before him; see the kings on bended knee.
See his mother praising his Father; see the blessed infant sleep.***

***One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream in a people of might,
one small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small Savior of life.***

One Small Child / David Meece / 1971 Curb Word Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Light of the world, shine in our lives this day.

*As we worship you in this Christmas season,
give us the insight of Simeon and the faith of Anna,
that we may perceive the promise of our salvation.*

*As we sing and pray, hope and expect,
give us the spirit of your Christ,
that we too may grow in strength and increase in wisdom.*

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH 246

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

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

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

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We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Galatians 4.4-7 (CEB)

⁴But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. ⁵This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted. ⁶Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" ⁷Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Luke 2.22-40 (CEB)

²² When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (²³ It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") ²⁴ They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*^[a]

²⁵ A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. ²⁸ Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

²⁹ "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,

³⁰ because my eyes have seen your salvation.

³¹ You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

³² It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

³³ His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. ³⁷ She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Sing We Now of Christmas

UMH 237

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

*Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest."*

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; there was never a stable so like paradise.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Doxology

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)

UMH 240

***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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

***Generous God, thank you for the gifts of Christmas that bless us throughout the year.
As we offer you our offering in gratitude and praise,
we commit our minds, our hearts, our hands, and our very lives
to the building of your beloved community.
May our gifts go forth through our life together to bless a world in need,
as signs of your redemption and hope.
May we shine with your glory, that others may discover through us your saving love.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.***

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Benediction

May we go in peace, as those who have perceived the salvation of our God.
May we go in joy, for Christ has clothed us with love.
May we go in hope, for the Spirit shows us that we are beloved children.
May we go with God, wherever God will go.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

***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 th'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 a virgin's womb.***

***Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh 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!"

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***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer

In you, O God, I will greatly rejoice—
in speaking and in silence,
in travels and in resting,
in working and in leisure,
in duties and in freedom.
O God, my whole being exults in you,
and my life shall evermore declare your praise,
my light, my love, my joy. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord, let your servant sleep in peace this night
and fulfill your gracious word.
Reveal to me the salvation
that you have prepared for all people.
With Jesus Christ,
help me be a light to the nations
and a sign of your glorious promise.
Amen.

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Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

*Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 AM
via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>)*

Evening Prayer via Zoom

*Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
via Zoom (Meeting id: 848 4741 1964, Passcode: 195510)*

All are welcome to join us Wednesday evenings for brief worship services to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Blessing of Homes

Post-Epiphany (Beginning January 6, 2021)

In some parts of the world, there is a Christian custom of inviting God's blessing on dwelling places, including both homes and workplaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers for God's blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign and reminder that we have invited God's presence into our homes.

This tradition is rooted in the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child resided (Matthew 2.1-12), and so it is most appropriately practiced near or during the season after the Epiphany, on January 6.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home at the beginning of 2021, please contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6, 2021.



Disciple Fast Track

Sundays beginning January 3, 9:45-11 AM, via Google Meet

Have you ever wanted to learn about the WHOLE Bible and what it means to be a Disciple? Whether you are curious about faith, new to Christianity, or have been a Christian your whole life, this Bible study will give you the opportunity to get a big picture look at the Bible. Join us for deep discussion and spiritual care. This is an online Bible study using Google Meet, so it doesn't matter your location! Expect about 15-20 minutes a day of "homework". And yes, we will cover MOST of the Bible in the course of a year, but just the Old Testament this winter/spring.

Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105 to sign up ASAP, so we can get you a book. We begin January 3, but anticipate new members joining throughout the month.



GriefShare Starting New Session

Beginning Tuesday, January 12, via Zoom

We will be starting a new session of GriefShare on January 12, 2020. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00 PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at www.umcb.org/donate. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



Loose Change Offering

Wow, would it be nice to hear our handfuls of loose change "clink clank" on the offering plate again! As a congregation committed to mission, our loose change offering gave a "boost" to the missions and programs that are strengthening our church and communities near and far. We would like to start back up the offering for 2021, even though we won't have the joy of "noisy change". Look for a highlighted mission each month in the Caller. You can support by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box to donate the mission or simply "loose change offering".

January's Loose Change Offering will support the Sager Brown Mission. Please share your **LOVE, JOY, & HOPE** on Sunday, January 10 through your gifts to Loose Change.





UMW Sunday Program
Sunday, January 10, 11 AM Worship Service
(www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)
Followed by a Discussion Via Zoom

UMW Sunday will be January 10. Deaconess Sherri Buell will be joining us at the 11:00 AM service with a Zoom discussion session to follow at noon. Deaconess Buell offers this information about her sermon:

From Served to Servant

We all face our challenges in life and there are people who lift us up and strengthen us. God works in us during these times so that we may do the same for others. The UMC of Berea played an enormous role in molding me to be the Servant I am today as Deaconess and a pastor's wife. For this I am grateful.

Please join us January 10, 2021 to celebrate the role of United Methodist Women in our Church and around the world.

Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you. While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests.

If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

Staff & Office Hours

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.