

WORSHIP HANDOUT

February 6th

Communion



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Open Doors

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

People: **God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: **God is there.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

— written by Rev. Robert George, Karen George, Judy Colby-George, in *Past Meets Future: A Blessing for Today*, posted on the [United Church of Christ](#) website.

*HYMN

God Is Here

UMH #660

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God,

help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, May the Spirit of Christmas continue to live in our hearts as we move into the year before us and out of the season of Christmas, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

~ attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson adapted by Rev. Andrew Scott

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For

thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Parent, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

UMH #358

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PA

LESSON I

Hebrews 2:14-18 CEB

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he also shared the same things in the same way. He did this to destroy the one who holds the power over death—the devil—by dying. ¹⁵ He set free those who were held in slavery their entire lives by their fear of death. ¹⁶ Of course, he isn't trying to help angels, but rather he's helping Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way. This was so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to wipe away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ He's able to help those who are being tempted, since he himself experienced suffering when he was tempted.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

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.*

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

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.

P: Thanks be to God.

HYMN In Remembrance of Me

POSTLUDE