

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>

First Sunday After Christmas

Sanctified Art: How Does a Weary World Rejoice

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME Joy to the World UMH 246

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

**Every month we break bread.**

Every week we gather for worship.

**Every day we count our blessings.**

Every minute God is near.

**Yes, every minute God is near.**

These are the rituals of our faith.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

SONG WHILE CHILDREN GATHER Rise and Shine

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO CONFESSION (PA)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist/unison)

**God of rhythms, we confess:**

**our faith would not be what it is without rituals.**

**Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.**

**We have to return to this space again and again**

**to hear old, familiar stories.  
For if we stopped,  
we know it would not take long before we lost our way.  
Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us  
ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.  
With grateful and humble hearts we pray,  
amen.**

### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist)**

Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace.

So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known.

You are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God! Amen!

**\*HYMN    A Baby, a Blessing! A Husband and Wife (Tune 103 four verses)**

### **LESSON I        Luke 2:21-24**

**<sup>21</sup> When eight days had passed, Jesus' parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived. <sup>22</sup> 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. (<sup>23</sup> It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") <sup>24</sup> They offered**

a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*  
May God add a Blessing to this reading.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### LESSON 2: Luke 2:25-38

**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.**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE            We root ourselves in ritual

\*HYMN              Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH 240

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers/Names of the People

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 Father, 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. Amen.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that faith is a journey  
marked by rituals and rhythms.**

**We come to worship.**

**We confess our sins.**

**We pass the peace.**

**We offer grace.**

**We hear the Word.**

**We baptize children.**

**We break the bread.**

**And we tell the story  
of a loving God.**

**And through these sacred rituals,  
we are reminded:**

**we are not alone.**

**God is near,**

**and we have work to do.**

**May this belief  
shape the rhythm of our lives.**

**Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

**UMH 660 v 4 God is Here**

**POSTLUDE**