



**Order of Worship
January 2, 2022
The Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Steve Evick

Prelude

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lezy

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Ruth Smale

We have a call! To be loved and to love. To be shown mercy and to show mercy. To be forgiven and to forgive. To receive hope and to offer hope. To know joy and share joy. To receive justice and to act justly. To be made whole and offer wholeness. We have a call. Listen... Listen... Do you hear?

Opening Prayer

Ruth Smale

Here we are Lord; your people, your Church worshipping together in your presence. We welcome each other and we welcome you. Make yourself known to us in new ways through our worship, our prayers and our understanding of your Word today. Lord, this is your day and we shall praise you! This is your day and we shall declare your name. This is your day, and we shall say, "Here we are, Lord. Send us."

Hymn (See last page)

Here I am, Lord

UMH 593

Children's Message

Lilies of the Field

Quinn Hetherington

Morning Prayer

Damon Moore

The Lord's Prayer

Damon Moore

Ministry of Music

Can You See the Light in Bethlehem?

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Ruth Smale

God of light, you have revealed your very self to us in your son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open us to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ruth Smale

The LORD's Case Against Israel

6 Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 “Hear, you mountains, the LORD's accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

3 “My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

4 I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

5 My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

6 With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

Matthew 6:25-34

Ruth Smale

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Sermon

Meghan Walker

Call to Confession

Steve Evick

Together, we confess that often we do not walk humbly with God. We fail to act justly; We fail to be merciful. Let us offer our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Steve Evick

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have made idols of our desires, our perceived righteousness, and even our fears.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have failed to embrace one another as equally valued members of one body, of which Christ alone is the head.

We have not done your will. We have broken your law...

We have been lured into legalism and the confines of church polity, savoring human security over divine, radical grace.

We have rebelled against your love,
believing that your favor is earned by faithfulness, rather than freely given to us and every brother and sister in Christ.

We have not loved our neighbors,
when we have valued certain voices, perspectives, and groups above others.

And we have not heard the cry of the needy.
when we overlooked the hungry, the poor, and the outcast; when we turned our back on the one who was lost; when we chose for ourselves who was welcome at your table.

Even when we fail to seek forgiveness, and have not yet forgiven one another,
forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Steve Evick

Hear the good news: Through the expansive, mysterious, divine gift of grace, made known in the person of Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled and restored to our Creator, and entrusted to bear this unimaginable love to the world.

Through Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Steve Evick

We have been called to lives of justice, love, and truth. We have been blessed to be a blessing. As forgiven and reconciled people, let us generously offer all that we are and all that we have to further the beloved community of love, justice, truth, and blessing.

Offertory

The Friendly Beast

French Carol

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication- All Praying*

Ruth Smale

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. And give us ears to hear you call on our lives. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Benediction

Meghan Walker

Now, go forth from this place with renewed inspiration to do the work of God. Seek good, not evil, strive for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God and your neighbors. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Go in peace. Amen.

Sung Benediction

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

Postlude

March of the King

Bizet

HERE I AM, LORD

Refrain

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord

If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of sea and sky

I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night

I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them?

*Whom shall I send? **Refrain***

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

*I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **Refrain***

*I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save*

*Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? **Refrain***

WE ARE CALLED

Refrain

*We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God!*

*Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God! **Refrain***

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more! **Refrain***

*Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, And we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love! **Refrain***