

Order of Worship

Let us be as open vessels that God's spirit may enter.

The Community Gathers: Experience God's presence in the assembly. Please greet one another with joy and welcome new friends into our community of love.

You are welcome here...come and worship!

Focus:

9:55 Preparation for worship:

Gathering Music: *The Peace Carol (by Bob Beers)*

-Cheryl Sager & Neal Zweig

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: How are we to live as God's beloved children?

People: We are called to embrace compassion and justice.

Leader: How are we to live as neighbors with one another?

People: We are to put on the garments of love and peace.

Leader: Let us come before the Lord in gratitude for all we have been given.

People: Lord, thank you for all you continue to do in our lives. Amen.

Opening Hymn: What Child Is This

#145

Invocation:

God, who walks with each one of us, help us to place our trust in your guiding care for us as we gather to learn the great lessons of living in peaceful community with each other. Prepare us to be witnesses of your love and forgiveness. Make us ready to work for you in your creation; for we ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Awakening: *Noel Christmas 1913 (by Bridges and Holdgridge)*

-Cheryl Sager & Neal Zweig

Message for the children and the child in each of us:

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Katie Koles

After the reading, you may choose to respond, "Thanks be to God."

Interactive Sermon/ Discussion of the Passage:

Prayer Together:

O God, we thank you

for the vision of Simeon and Anna,

for the baby Jesus, and for each one of us.

Help us to see people as you see them,

to see that each one of us is special to you

and that you have plans for each of us.

Help us to make time to remember that

we are special and to think about what hopes

and dreams you have for us. Amen.

Blessing with the Children-

May you always remember that you are special to God.

Always remember you are special to God.

Sermon Response: *Silent Night ~ Meditative Instrumental*

-Neal Zweig

Musical call to Prayer: (two times) Hush now in quiet peace, be still your mind at ease. The Spirit brings release, so wait upon the Lord.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Call To Offertory:

God, you call us to give as we have received. On this Sunday following Christmas, when our blessings are great, when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

Offertory: *The Straw Against the Chill* (by Bob Franke)

-Cheryl Sager & Neal Zweig

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Children's Sharing Time:

Closing Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

#113

Benediction

May the God who comes through the child Jesus bless the child in each of you and receive the blessings that we return. Amen.

Response: Amen

Recessional: *Go in Peace*

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
celebrate and share the joy. Celebrate new life.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always

Thank you to Music Director Michelle Currie and to our Musicians today: Cheryl Sager, Neal Zweig & Patricia Mulholland

Rev. Paula Norbert (207) 205-4951 or (pnorbert1217@gmail.com)

If you are interested in joining Union Church or would like to set up a time to meet with our Pastor, please contact Pastor Paula directly.

Union Church

Biddeford Pool

...a place of peace and Presence by the sea



Who Is this Child?
you are welcome here
December 30, 2018
10:00 A.M.