

Astoria First United Methodist Church
December 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

“Oh Christmas Tree”

Stephen Morden

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jane Hill

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise God, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise God sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Young men and women alike old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. God has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING

“Galatians 4:4-7”

Jane Hill

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Three Kings”

Stephen Morden

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Jane Hill

On this first Sunday after Christmas, as another year draws to a close, we come together before God and with one another, confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace; the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for Justice; in our focus on making the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing; in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray, cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jane Hill

Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love. For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. In the Name of Christ who comes into our world and our lives be our Savior and for all eternity our Lord. Hear the good news of Christmas. In the Holy and Precious name of Jesus you are forgiven.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

**Mary Frances
UMH#154**

GOSPEL LESSON

“Luke 2:22-40”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Strength, Wisdom, and the Favor of God”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.
