

Parish News • Friday, December 18, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings! As hard as it seems to believe, Christmas is one week from today. This holiday season is the strangest I can remember in all my sixty-four years. All of us are scrambling trying to make it seem as normal as possible, realizing there is no "normal" this year.

And yet, as I'll mention during the Christmas Eve service, the first Christmas was anything but normal. Mary and Joseph were making a perilous journey from their hometown of Nazareth to Bethlehem, most likely by foot, while Mary was expecting their first child to be born at any time.

Last spring, as the pandemic arrived just before Easter, Bishop Ough said, "Covid-19 cannot cancel Easter." So too, Covid-19 cannot cancel Christmas. Christ will be born again this year in our world and in our hearts, even though we can't gather together on Christmas Eve, sitting shoulder to shoulder in a darkened sanctuary singing "*Silent Night*;" and even though you may not be able to gather in a large family gathering for Christmas dinner and presents.

Note: Some people prefer reading a Word Document to an email message. Beginning this week I'm attaching the Word Document I use to generate this email message for those who wish to read *Parish News* in a document

format. In succeeding weeks I'll attach it without comment.

Item #1: We're continuing to learn about how to make our Facebook Live worship services as high quality as we can with our available technology, as well as trying to make them as interactive as possible.

- A big thanks to Sheri Rue who is our "live stream greeter and hospitality person!" I'm glad for the creative ways you are enthusiastically responding with your comments. It was especially fun to see how people replied to Sheri's question last Sunday about Christmas ornaments.
- We're going to start the broadcast each Sunday about 9:53 so you can begin greeting each other in advance of the service itself. We'll also keep the broadcast running for a number of minutes following the organ postlude for any final comments and greetings.
- Thank you for your comments of appreciation to me. I've tried to find a way to respond to you where they will be posted as from me personally, but so far can only reply as Ely UMC. I'm refraining from doing so because it might be confusing to have replies from both Sheri and me coming from the same "address." Please know I read your comments carefully and am grateful!

Item #2: Our Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed on December 24 at 5:30. If you have candles at

home please have them ready for when we light candles in the sanctuary.

Our camera is scheduled to arrive Monday, December 21st so we'll hopefully have a noticeable improvement in audio and video quality for this special service.

Item #3: The January and February edition of the Upper Room devotional booklet is available at the church. Stop by and pick up a copy or call the church to request delivery, leaving a message if necessary.

Item #4: We need a volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks in January. Mark Olson has been shoveling in November and December. Please call the church if you are able, again, leaving a message if necessary.

Item #5: We will not live-stream a worship service next Sunday, December 27th. The Minnesota Annual Conference is producing a service led by the Bishop and other Annual Conference leaders. The link for the service is not available yet. Watch for it next week.

Item #6: Please find attached an updated list of Poinsettias purchased this year in memory of loved ones.

Item #7: This week's Worship Service and Prayer Wall are attached.

There will be short *Parish News* edition next week,

probably on Wednesday. I will send it to the email Google Group only. The next *Parish News* edition going out via US Mail will probably be sometime around New Years Eve day.

Hear now the words of the angel to the shepherds that first Christmas Eve from Luke 2:10-14.

"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; 11 for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!'"

With my appreciation
Pastor Craig

**Ely United Methodist Church
Poinsettia List
2020**

Person	In Memory of
Butch and Lucy Diesslin	Ruth Barnes
Jay and Jeanne Tomlinson	Their Parents
Craig Haberman	Dwight Haberman
Bob and Pat Olson	Roger Salo
Bob and Pat Olson	Cody Olson
Bob and Pat Olson	Barbara Lassila
Norm and Donna Rusco	Grandson Justin Rusco
Vicki Wagner	Richard and Laurette Reinhardt
Vicki Wagner	Elmer and Inga Knudston

**The Ely United Methodist Church
*Prayer Wall***

December 18, 2020

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

Matthew 21: 22



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Marla Tezak** – Linda Hane’s sister-in-law is having a laser surgical procedure
- **Linda Fryer** – Linda fell and fractured her cervical spine requiring same day surgery in Duluth Dec 13
- **Steve Norvitch family & friends** – Sheila Shultz’s nephew, Steve, passed away from COVID-19
- **Brett Janeksela** – Donating a kidney to his cousin Jerilyn Montgomery on Dec 11, 8 weeks to recover
- **Augie Richter** – Working in the Twin Cities as a medical transcriptionist in the hospital and has seen so much death due to COVID-19. It’s been hard on him and the support staff. Please pray for his Spirit.
- **Mike and Gail Haney** – Mike is having consultations in Duluth for brain and lung cancer treatments
- **Bruce & Carol Finley family** – Deanie Kuehl’s brother Bruce passed away from COVID-19. His wife, Carol, who was still in the ICU with COVID-19 and on a ventilator passed away a few days later.
- **Sheila Shultz** – Is thankful for all the prayers, cards and calls and her ankle is now fully healed
- **Jerilyn Montgomery** – Jerilyn is having a kidney transplant surgery on December 11

- **Bonnie Zupancich family, friends & especially her husband Jimmy** – Bonnie died from COVID-19
- **Nigel Cooper** – Butch & Lucy Diesslin's brother-in-law's open heart bypass surgery went well and Nigel is now recovering at home
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt's great granddaughter is getting chemo treatment for stomach cancer
- **Robin** – Heather and Marshall's niece, a nursing home nurse where there is a dramatic uptick in COVID-19 cases in both residents and staff, is working multiple shifts with very little sleep.
- **Andy Baker's family & friends** – Andy passed away in Columbus, OH, on Saturday, November 21
- **Emily Wahlberg Family & Friends** – Emily passed away Nov 19, be in prayer to her family & friends
- **Abbey** – Linda Gass's 8 yr old granddaughter's brain surgery went well and she is recovering at home
- **Linda Williams** – Is having health issues & is recovering in the BWCC. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Steve White** – Charlie Berglund's nephew is battling colon & liver cancer and after his bout with COVID-19 is now having surgery to remove half his liver. Pray for successful surgery and healing.
- **Those who have contracted the COVID-19 Virus and Family Members**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus**

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.

Ely United Methodist Church Service for Sunday, December 20, 2020 is on the following pages.

Ely United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Welcome at about 9:53 Pastor Craig
Prelude Susan Germek

Opening Hymn #240 Hark the Herald Angels Sing All Three Verses
Opening Prayer (BCP – Advent IV)

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Mark/Marge Olson

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38 Mark Olson

Children's Time
Song of Mary Luke 1:46b-55 Pastor Craig

Meditation Pastor Craig

Hymn # 217 Away in a Manger All Three Verses

Prayer Wall
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory
Doxology

Closing Song #218 It Came Upon a Midnight clear Verses 1,3, and 4

Ringing of the Bell
Benediction
Postlude

Leading worship: Pastor Craig Haberman
Accompanist: Susan Germek
Liturgist: Mark Olson
Song Leader: Bev Johnson

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1,3

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last-ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

217

Away in a Manger

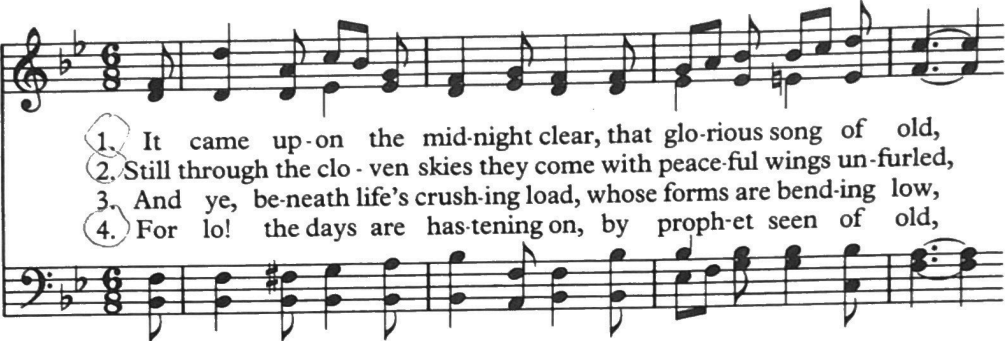
1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

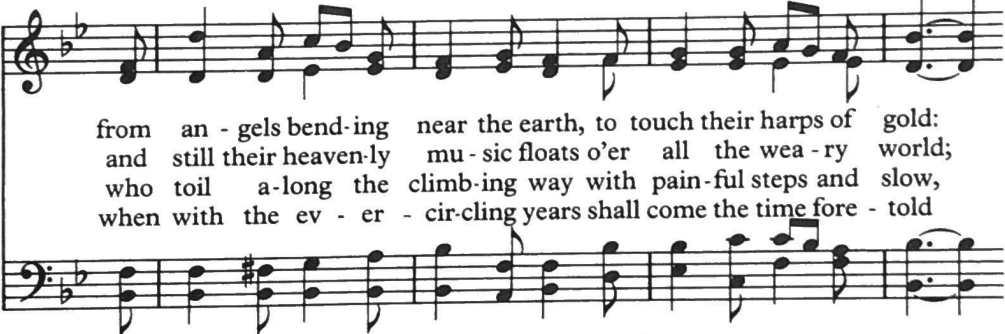
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

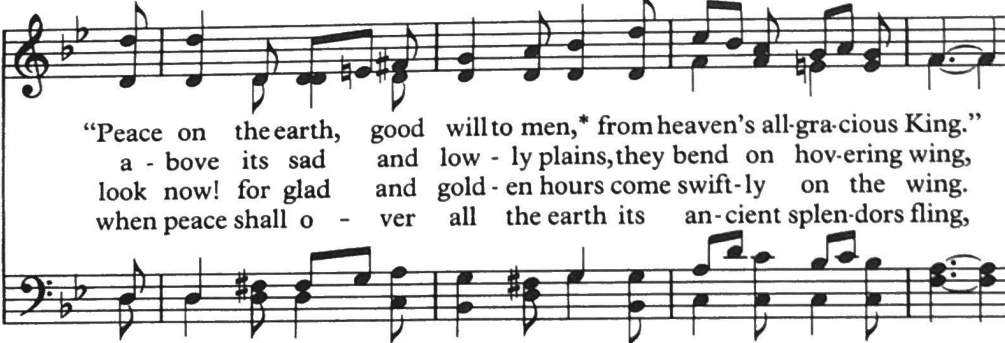
It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218



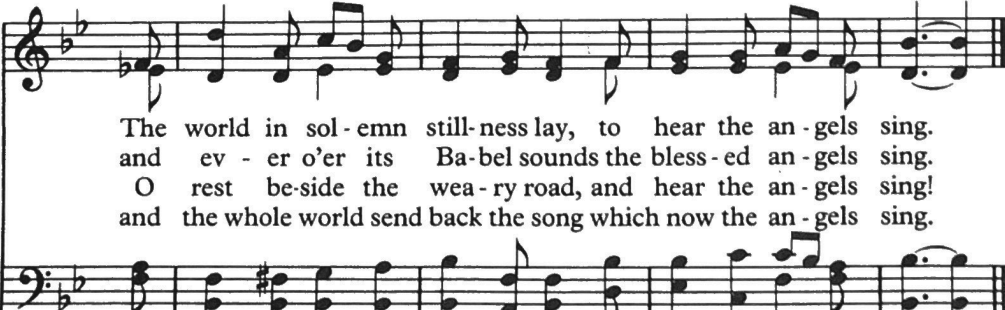
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gracious King."
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
 look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing,
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.