



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Trusting God with Joy”

December 12, 2021

10:30 a.m. Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church’s Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Larry Patterson, Office Administrator
Ben Sackett, Custodian
Rev Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Organist
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Nicole Finney, Child Care

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.
As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door.
We ask that you wear a mask and social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

If you are new to our church or do not receive email updates from us, please share your name and contact information with us by contacting us: office@grandledgeucc.org

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

Grand Ringers

INTROIT

“Away in a Manger”
(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gathering one! Embracing one!

Many: Gentle one! Emblazoned one!

One: Winnowing one! Restorative one!

Many: The one who has come! The one who will come!

One: The one who bears the image of those who bear God’s.

Many: Worthy are you, mysterious one! Amen.

ADVENT SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,
From Mary's womb a faithful paragon
Brought forth into this world by love's power
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

CANDLE OF HOPE

Karen Holcomb-Merrill,
Kathy & Gary Burt

OPENING HYMN #119

“My Soul Gives Glory to God”

(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 12:2-6 NRSV (628)

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for GOD is my strength and my might;
God has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to God,
call on God's name;
make known God's deeds among the nations;
proclaim that God's name is exalted.
Sing praises to God, for God has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 3:8-16 NRSV (935)

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do

likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“Trusting God with Joy”

(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“He Became Poor”

(Chuck Byam)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

(For those of us meeting in person, you are invited to place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. For those of you worshipping at home, please give what you can by mail or through prayers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com)

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God To Whom All Blessings Flow”

DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: Gather us back together, O God, we who have separated ourselves from our neighbors from our higher selves and from your expansive Love. Reunite us with our calling. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN vs 1-3

“The First Nowell”

(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Jolly Old Saint Nicholas”
(Chuck Byam)

CREDITS

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Marcia Kent

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Sound Board - Mae Clark

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Usher – Leah Horn

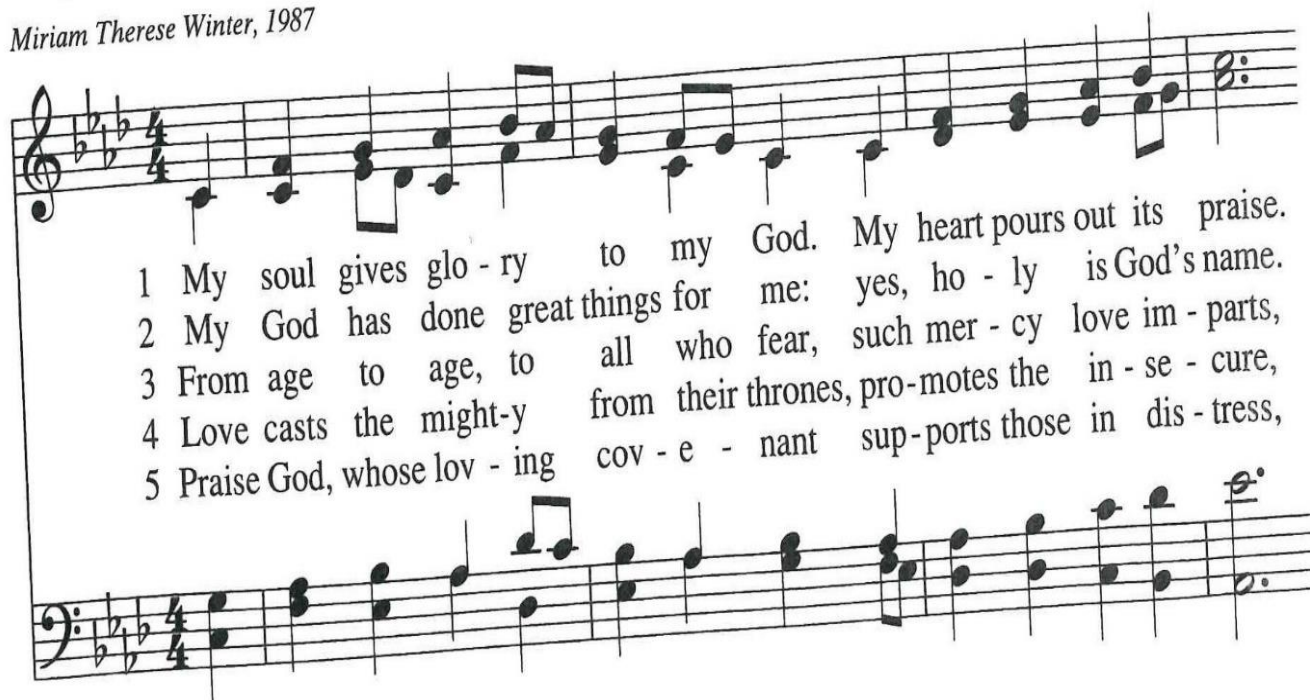
Greeter – Sandy Sipes & Jenna Patrick

Hymn Singer - Choir

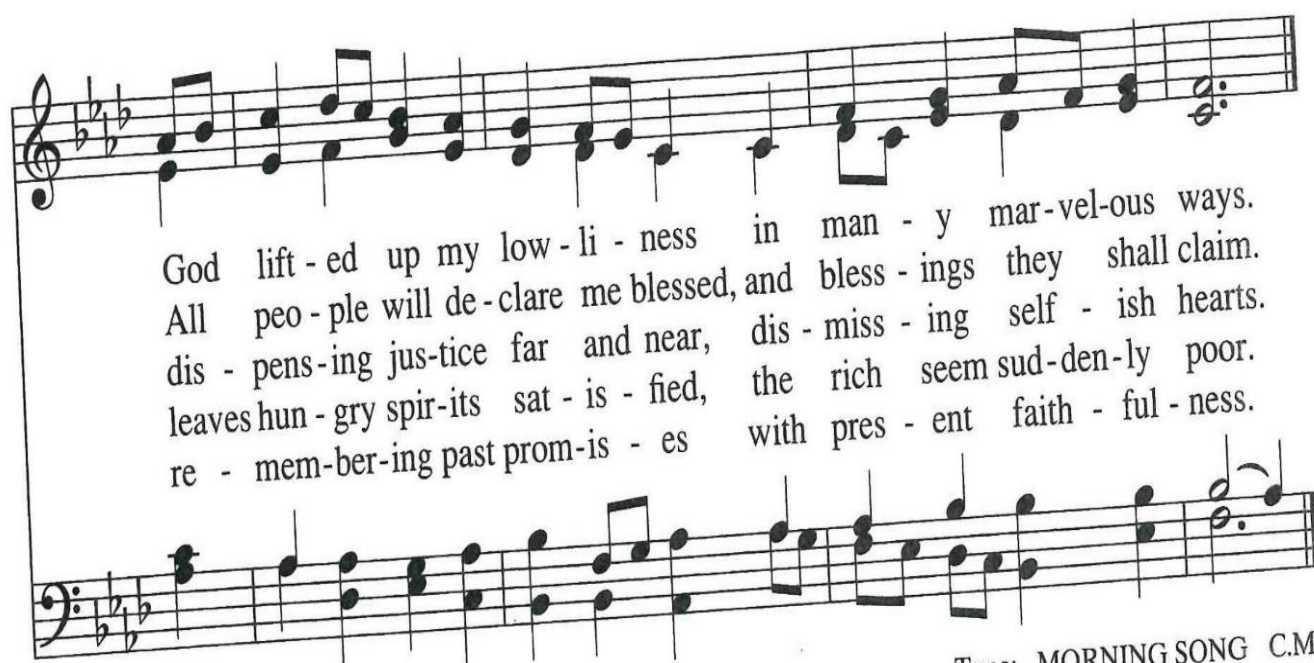
My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
 3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
 4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



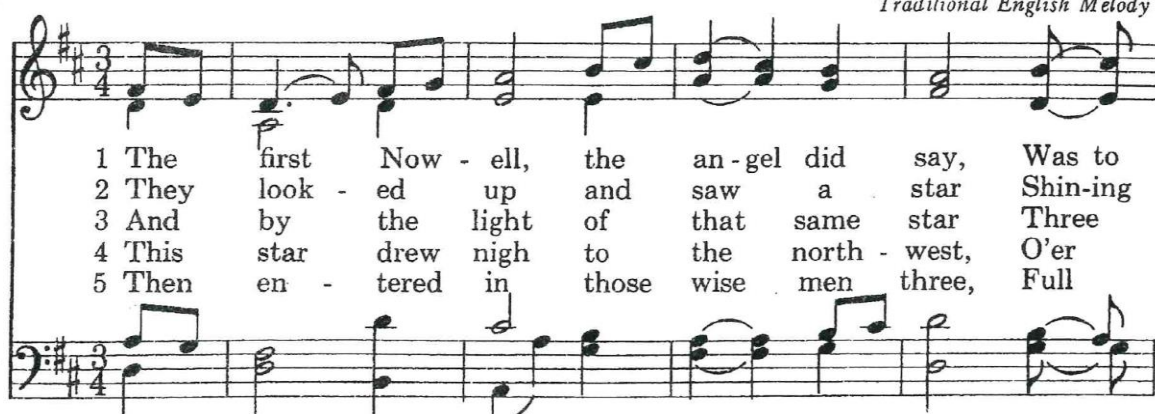
God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
 All peo - ple will de-clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.
 re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
 Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
 Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

The First Nowell

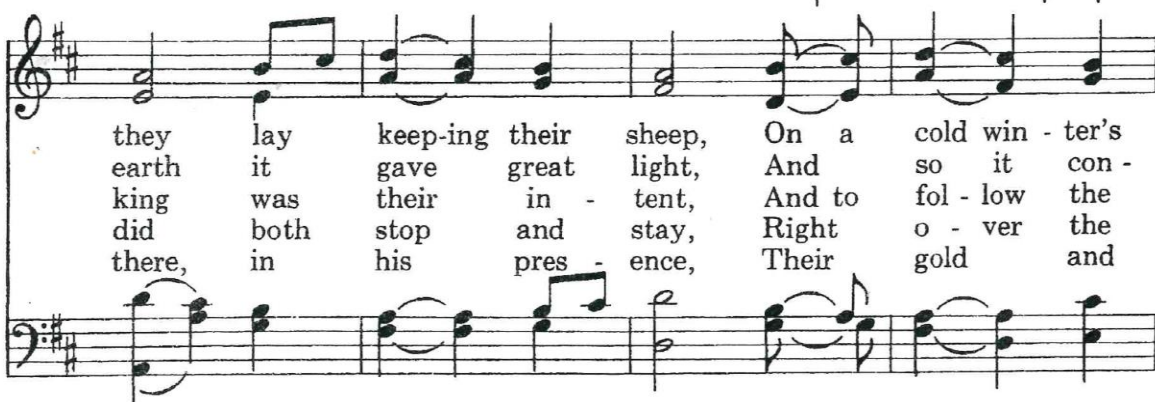
Traditional English Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular with Refrain
Traditional English Melody


1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing
 3 And by the light of that same star Three
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full



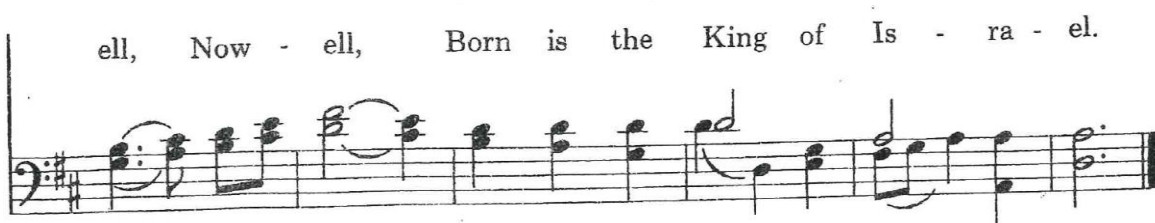
cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far, And to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered



they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, And so it con -
 king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
 there, in his pres - ence, Their gold and



REFRAIN
 night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.



ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.