



# Sunset United Church

## December 11, 2022



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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith.  
All are welcome here.*

### Welcome & Announcements

### Candle Lighting

### Centering Time

### Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: May the love of God be with you all,

**All: And also with you.**

One: Come, gather in close; we have a story to share,

**All: A story of a child that will soon be born.**

One: This child will enter the world as one who is poor and helpless,

**All: But will live a life of miracles and speak of great wisdom.**

One: Come, gather in close, it's time to prepare;

**All: Prepare the way the for the coming the Lord.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Holy God, we gather in the holiness of this sanctuary to ready ourselves for the anniversary of Christ's birth. We ask you to continue your presence in our lives as we clear our minds in readiness for Jesus' teaching. We ask for your continued love as we open our hearts to the ongoing glory of your gift - a baby that will show the way to Shalom.**

**We pray to you who is our mother and 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn VU#9 People, Look East<sup>1</sup>**

**People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the bird is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.**

**Theme Time** VU#7 Hope is a Star (v. 1 & 2)<sup>2</sup>

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Anthem**

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 35:1-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

**Hymn** VU#49 No Crowded Eastern Street<sup>3</sup>

**No crowded eastern street, no sound of passing feet;  
far to the left and far to right  
the prairie snows spread fair and white;  
yet still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.**

**No rock-hewn place of peace shared with the gentle beasts,  
but sturdy farm house, stout and warm,  
with stable, shed, and great red barn;  
and still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.**

**No blaze of heavenly fire, no bright celestial choir,  
only the starlight as of old,  
crossed by the planes' flash, red and gold;  
yet still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.**

**No kings with gold and grain, no stately camel train:  
yet in his presence all may stand  
with loving heart and willing hand;  
for still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.**

## Reflection

Hymn MV#120 My Soul Cries Out<sup>4</sup>

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart  
is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to  
the ones who wait.**

**You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my  
weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world  
be about to turn?**

*Refrain* **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in  
me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the  
end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who  
would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the  
world is about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will  
be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from  
his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can  
never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is  
about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who  
holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing  
grasp.**

**This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise  
which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning  
the world around.**

*Refrain*

### **Minute for Mission**

**Response Hymn** VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn** VU#59 Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **Blessing**



**Minister:** Rev. Jim Tenford (he/him)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)      **Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



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