

First United Methodist Church
Weatherford, OK
First Sunday After Christmas | White & Gold

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

10:30AM

CHRISTMASTIDE I

GREETING | OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE Marti Bessinger, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born. **Praise the Lord!** God has come to claim us as God's own children. **Praise the Lord!**
Love has given us this glorious gift. **Praise the Lord!**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rejoice in the peace of knowing Christ, as you share Christ's peace with one another and with the world.

✠ HYMN *"Sing We Now of Christmas"* (vv. 1, 2, 3) U.M.H. No. 237

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

"A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" U.M.H. No. 607

HYMN *"What Child Is This"* (vv. 1 & 2) U.M.H. No. 219

HYMN *"He Is Born"* (vv. 1 & 3) U.M.H. No. 228

HYMN *"Love Came Down At Christmas"* (vv. 1, 2, 3) U.M.H. No. 242

OLDER TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3 See Lectionary Insert

✠ HYMN *"My Master, See, The Time Has Come"* (vv. 1 & 2) U.M.H. No. 226

✠ GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-40 See Lectionary Insert

Behold! The Wisdom of God's Word!
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE *"A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"* Rev. Lynn Brack

RESPONSE TO THE WORD Psalm 148 (responsively) See Lectionary Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING THOSE REQUESTING PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER U.M.H. No. 895

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Bring your gifts in dedication to God. Bring your hearts filled with love for God's world. Bring your whole selves, that the Holy Spirit might bless you and bless your gifts.

SHARING OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *"Joseph's Song"* Michael Card

Tim Bodenstern, vocalist; Marti Bessinger, accompanist

✠ DOXOLOGY U.M.H. No. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

✠ OFFERING PRAYER Together, let us pray . . . **Bless these gifts, Holy God, that they may become signs of love and joy during this holy Christmas season. AMEN.**

✠ HYMN *"Love Has Come"* (vv. 1 – 3) W. & S. No. 3059

✠ HYMN *"If I Could Visit Bethlehem"* (vv. 1 – 3) W. & S. No. 3063

✠ BENEDICTION

Go forth in peace, the peace of Christ.
Go forth with joy, the joy of the season.
Go forth with love, the love of God.
Go forth to serve, led by the Spirit of God.

POSTLUDE Marti Bessinger

REMEMBERING THOSE REQUESTING PRAYER THIS DAY

Bill Townsend (Nic Townsend's father, in rehab facility in Altus, OK with congestive heart failure); Donna Taylor (daughter of D. J. & Vernell Snider, preparing for heart surgery January 25th in Cleveland, OH); William Moore (father of Kelly Lackey, has been in the Heart Hospital in OKC, recent arteriogram revealed good news, P.T.L!); Jana Lou Scott; Linda & Gerald Stengl; Mary Statser (Corn/Corn); Wanda Avant (Corn/Corn); Cheri & Gerald Payne (Brookdale, mother of Kelley Ramey); Our nation, Church, Oklahoma State Legislature; Jason, James, Armando and all those incarcerated; Terry Fuller, sons & grandsons; Craig Dobrinski (cancer); Butch Collins (cancer); Thankful for our Savior; Grateful for family & friends; The Family of Chesney Broughton; Kirk Milligan; Those who have lost loved ones this year; Thankful for being blessed with plenty of food, warm clothes, and family; Family of Gary Dean Rader, whose funeral was in our Sanctuary last Wednesday afternoon—thanks to his spouse, Barbara and children Dean & Amy, for sharing these beautiful bouquets of floral offerings with our church family today.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- . Our church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd. The Learning Tree PreSchool will also be closed on Monday, January 1st.

- . Our Kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be undergoing a complete re-painting this week. Please try to avoid the area, if possible. Thanks to our Board of Trustees for making this project possible. Next, the flooring in the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be replaced; gratitude is extended to Mary Fast (chairperson) and all members of our Memorial Contributions Committee for providing the funds to underwrite the flooring project.

- . Our Board of Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, January 2nd, 5:30PM in the Conference Room.

- . Next Sunday, January 7th, our various committee Work Areas will be meeting in classrooms along the Westside Corridor from 5:30PM to 6:30PM. The Leadership Team will be meeting in the Neonate Classroom area from 6:30PM to 7:30PM, with Todd Doyals presiding.

- . Our youth director, Kelley Ramey, will be leaving for her annual continuing education event at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on Sunday, January 7th – January 11th.