

Welcome! We're glad that you chose to worship with Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry today!

10:00AM Worship – 23 December 2018



## JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME—YESTERDAY, TODAY, & FOREVER

Advent is a time of preparing for the second coming of Christ. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which in turn is the translation for the Greek word *Parousia*, which theologically means the second coming of Christ. The Sundays leading up to Christmas lead us towards the coming of Christ in the manger AND Christ's coming again in glory. This Advent our worship will focus on how we are getting ready for the great banquet feast with God where Jesus invites us to come and share the salvation of the world. We will explore what it means to share God's offerings of hope, peace, joy, and love with the world, so we can all feast together at the great banquet of God's salvation.

We're grateful for those serving in worship today, including:

Ministers—All the gathered... Ushers—Anne Howard, Barb Panosh, and other volunteers.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Dennis Janda.

Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry is three historic Manitowoc congregations served by co-pastors The Rev Judine A **Duerwaechter** and The Rev Dr **Matthew L Sauer**. **Our mission states that "we covenant to share, serve, and live the Gospel as we incorporate the strengths of each congregation in service to the Manitowoc community."**

 <p><b>Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry</b> churches serving together</p>	First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) 920.682.4688 – 502 N 8 <sup>th</sup> St
	First Reformed United Church of Christ 920.682.6121 – 3613 Waldo Blvd
	<b>St John's United Church of Christ</b> 920.682.3817 – 1501 Marshall St
	Pastor Judine Duerwaechter 920.286.2133 – judine@mcmunited.com
	Pastor Matt Sauer 920.860.6880 – matt@mcmunited.com

Welcome! Please sign the friendship pad, which is located near the end of each pew. \* When communion is celebrated, all who want to call Jesus Lord are welcomed to the Table of Love. \* Please use the prayer cards in the pew racks to share your prayer requests with the pastors. \* Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers. \* Children are always welcome in worship; if and when you need child care or a nursing space, please let an usher know and they will assist you.

All who are able, please stand and sit as indicated in the bulletin.

Parts the people say are indicated by bold text; parts the people sing are indicated by a 🎵 symbol.

## CENTERING Contemporary Christian Christmas

## MUSICAL OFFERINGS *MCM's young people will share their musical gifts today*

All who are able, please stand

GATHERING We join in our weekly *celebration of God's love*

🎵 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (alternate lyrics) Izzy Balma, piano

All 🎵 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Come enter into worship with us here.

Fill us now with your hope and your peace;

and fill us with your joy and with your love.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, the faithful ones who wait.

The music continues playing as the pastor reads Scripture, followed by singing a second time

All 🎵 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Come enter into worship with us here.

Fill us now with your hope and your peace;

and fill us with your joy and with your love.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, the faithful ones who wait.

Please be seated

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Your offerings support the ministry of Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry as we strive to be Christ to one another, our community, and the world. Please make sure your offering is clearly labeled with ***'First Presbyterian', 'First Reformed', or 'St John's' so they may be directed to the appropriate office.***

Any undesignated offerings will be evenly shared between our three congregations. Thank you!

OFFERTORY What Child is This? Taya Schreiter

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All who are able, please stand

🎵 Doxology for Advent [VENI EMMANUEL, as in "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"]

All 🎵 Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, the faithful ones who wait.

WE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST *We greet others with God's love*

Please be seated

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY     Jesus Christ is the Same—Yesterday, Today, & Forever

During the Christmas Story, the congregation will be asked to move to the lower level Fellowship Hall for the rest of the service

♪ Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord     Stephen Schwartz     Dan Krueger, guitar; Olivia Sauer, drums

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

MEDITATION     Night of Silence     Daniel Kantor     Handbell Choir

All who are able, please stand

## BLESSING & ADVENT CANDLES     We go into the world as the Body of Christ

One     The fourth Advent candle:

All     We light a candle of Love to announce **that God's** forgiveness is here.

One     We light a candle of Love **to proclaim God's** hospitality.

All     We light a candle of Love against our own fears and wants.

One     We light a candle of Love for the promise of **God's beloved community.**

All     We light the candle of Love.

One     Go now in Love.

*(The following words are sung to the last line of the tune "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")*

All     ♪ Go forth! Go forth! Emmanuel shall lead us forth with Love for all the world.

Please stay and enjoy the Christmas hospitality  
of the Sauer Family as they share Christmas cheer!

## MCM WORSHIP SCHEDULE THROUGH END OF 2018

### 3 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES 12/24

On Monday, December 24 **we'll have** 5PM **Worship at St John's UCC**, 7PM Worship at First Reformed UCC, and 11PM Worship at First Presbyterian.

### MCM UNITED WORSHIP SERVICE 12/30

On Sunday, December 30 **we'll** worship together at 10AM at **St John's UCC**.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

## Away in a Manger

Away in a manger  
No crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky  
Look down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay  
The cattle are lowing  
The poor Baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side  
'Til morning is nigh

## Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.  
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world 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.

## Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching  
**o'er silent flocks by night,**  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When low above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain