

Begin the new year
with God



Epiphany
January 07, 2024

A Covenant Renewal Service

PRELUDE

Deanna Larson, organist
“Andante Cantabile” C.M. Widor
“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now” H. Hopson

WELCOME

We welcome each of you to this worship moment! Please register your attendance in the Friendship pad. Let us know if you are new, would like to become a member, or are interested in more information about Storm Lake United Methodist Church. If this is your first time, we have a folder for you. We pray that this worship journey together will be a blessing in your life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is January 7, 2024. We are having our abbreviated Covenant Renewal worship and a blessing of our Leadership Team and volunteers.

Please stand and join in singing...

*OPENING HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH #117 (v.1-3)

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home

-Verse 2-

Under the shadow of thy throne
Still may we dwell secure
Sufficient is thine arm alone
And our defense is sure

-Verse 3-

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame
From everlasting thou art God
To endless yard the same

Please join in the...

Jodie Morin

*OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, we have come from different places to worship you. It is with hearts full of gratitude that we have come to you to say "Thank you" for all that you have done for us. We ask you to be attentive to the cries of our hearts. Allow us to worship you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Joan Rude

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

UMH # 601

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I’ve lost my way
Still you’re there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 8:1-2, 4a, 8-12)

Jodie Morin

¹...all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate.
They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.

² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ⁴ The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

A SERVICE OF INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF CHURCH LEADERS / VOLUNTEERS

Dear friends,

you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church, Forest Chapel United Methodist Church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

Today we *install (recognize) members of the Leadership Team:*

NEW:

*Katie Brostad, Kelli Cameron, Lindsay DeHaan, Jeremy Hansen,
Jose Ledesma, Kylea Ledesma, and Polly Wolterman*

CONTINUING:

Katie Bauer, Jeannie Bellinghausen, Bob Bennett, Brittany Boeset, Erica Boeset, Terry Brashears, John Brostad, Dale Carver, Larry Davenport, Deb DeHaan, Fred DeHaan, Lindsay DeHaan, Jan Finnegan, Clark Fort, Alicia Gatzemeyer, Cory Gatzemeyer, Sue Geisinger, Jen Hecht, Larry Hecht, Linda Hecht, Aaron Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Wendy Johnson, Dave Kofmehl, Neal Kuehl, Austin Langel, Dave Meyer, Bruce Milbrandt, Pam Milbrandt, Kit Munden, Brenda Nickolisen, Rod Nothwehr, Peyton Phillips, Katie Schwint, Shelley Scuffham, Connie Skibsted, Nancy Sliefert, Susan Thompson, Carl Turner, Polly Wolterman, and Mary Ann Zweibahmer.

Many other volunteers:

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?

I will.

Will you so live at you enable this church to be a people of love and peace?

I will.

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

I will.

We also recognize those persons who have been elected to office by the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women in Mission, and United Methodist Youth (and other organizations as appropriate)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church.

Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service.

Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all.

Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy.

Guide them in their work.

Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PASTOR ADDRESSES THE CONGREGATION:

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards.

Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS:

We will.

INVITATION TO RENEW THE COVENANT

Carl Turner

Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You.

Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY COMMUNION Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise

your name and join their unending hymn;

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen' Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered her...

...Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Colton Lindgren

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO GIVING

As God has so richly poured gifts of love, peace, hope, and joy into our lives; let us receive the morning's offering as tokens of our gratitude for all these blessings. AMEN.

OFFERING

“The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”

P. Stearns

Tithing & Offerings / online giving / VENMO: @StormLake-UMC

Offering plates will be passed.

Please sign the attendance books at the end of each pew and pass down the row.

Please stand and join in singing...

*DOXOLOGY

No 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, 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!

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jodie Morin

God of the Ages, your angels announced the birth of your son to lowly shepherds, and those shepherds worship the Holy Child, kneeling beside kings in a stable. You gave us the gift of a Savior, sent for the rich and the poor alike. Every gift given from the heart is blessed by you, and every act that proclaims your love brings joy to you. May the gifts that we offer and the love we proclaim to others in our words and actions satisfy your heart – this day and all through the coming years. We pray this in Christ’s holy name. Amen. (Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12)

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH #593

I the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

-Refrain-

Here I am, Lord Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

-Verse 2-

I the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send

-Refrain-

Here I am, Lord Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

-Verse 3-

I the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send

-Refrain-

Here I am, Lord Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING PRAYER SONG

A CLOSING PRAYER

The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place;

Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy grace.

Wherever life may take us as we go our sep'rate ways,

Help us share with others the things we've shared today.

May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son,

Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us, each one.

May the blessings of the spirit fill us from within;

God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again. Amen

POSTLUDE

“Postlude”

Deanna Larson, organist

J. Rinck