

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 1 January 2023
First Sunday after Christmas Day/Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the address pad
in your pew)*

Greeting: Today Jesus and his parents have our attention.

It is a beginning.

Let us get closer to childhood, and parenting.

This is our job, always.

Our praying and sharing never ignore this.

Thanks for reminding us.

*Praise Choruses: Praise Choruses *(See insert)*

“Another Year Is Dawning”

“God of the Ages”

*Opening Prayer: Help us protect our children.

It is our first order of business.

Yet we are to become as little children.

Does that mean we are first to listen?

Yes.

Then, teach us how.

Yes, Lord. Teach us how.

*Opening Hymn: 227 “The Friendly Beasts”

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Help us do two things at once.

How so?

Help us follow Joseph, not Herod.

But Herod was in charge.

That’s not what the Wise Men thought.

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That’s confusing.

Not according to the story of Jesus.

Listen.

Help us.

Yes, Lord. Teach us. We promise to listen.

We promise.

First Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Psalter: UM861 Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

*Hymn of Preparation: 245 “The First Noel”

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon: “Listening ”

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Affirmation of Faith: 880 “The Nicene Creed”

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

*The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

(Everyone is welcome)

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people

let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offerory

*Doxology: 240 *(Verse 3 only)* “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The Great Thanksgiving: (Page 15, UMH)

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SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 213 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*Dismissal with Blessing:

Have you listened?

Yes.

Will you, like Mary, ponder these things in your hearts?

Yes.

When you hear, like Joseph, will you obey, protect, and listen again?

Yes.

Then, go. Be blessed....and come again so we can learn together.

We promise.

Amen.

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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