



## Minnehaha United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation  
*We Seek We Serve We Celebrate*

### Welcome Friends!

We welcome you to worship wherever you may be in your faith's journey. We strive to live in the way of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love on a daily basis regardless of race, sexual orientation or faith history.

We livestream our worship services, and you may end up in view of the camera at any point in the service.

### Worship Personnel

Rev. Becky Sechrist, *Pastor*;  
Rev. Jean Elliott, *Director of Children, Youth, & Their Families*;  
Alex Rack, *Choir Director*;  
Anders Nelson, *Organist*;  
Tim Siefkes, *Band Leader*;  
Nicholas and Patience Sabah, *Communion Stewards*

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church acknowledges that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary land of Dakota People.**

### Attendance

We are delighted you are here! We invite you to "sign the welcome pad" electronically.

If you point your camera phone at the QR code, it will take you to a Google form where you can enter your information.



### Offering

For our offering, you can also give electronically through the PayPal account online, or by using this QR Code (which takes you to our PayPal account).

MUMC DONATION



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# December 3, 2023 9:30 a.m.

\* Please rise in body or spirit

## Prelude

Anders Nelson, *organist*

## For Advent

Dom Paul Benoit, OSB

## Greeting and Announcements

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Katie, Dan, Maddy, and Ethan Klug

*(by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed; A Sanctified Art LLC; sanctifiedart.org)*

**Leader:** How does a weary world hope?

**People:** **By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

**Leader:** By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

**People:** **By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

**Leader:** There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**People:** **With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world.**

*(light the candle of hope)*

## \*Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #196*

*The United Methodist Hymnal (red)*

Charles Wesley (1744) Rowland H. Prichard (1830)

## Children's Message

Jean Elliott

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

## Sharing of Joys & Concerns

## Morning Prayer

*(by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed; A Sanctified Art LLC; sanctifiedart.org)*

**Gracious God, we are weary.**

**For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray.**

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

**For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray.**

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

**For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray.**

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

**For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,**

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.**

**Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

## Silent Prayer

## Pastoral Prayer

## Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Gustav Holst

## Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:5-23

Richard Chantry

## Sermon

*"Weariness"*

Rev. Becky Sechrist

## Offering of Gifts and Tithes

### Offertory

Chancel Choir

*Comfort Comfort*

Arr. John Ferguson

## \*Act of Praise

*The United Methodist Hymnal*

*Doxology #94*

Thomas Ken ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**We rejoice, O God, in the gifts of your Spirit that offer us productive and fulfilling lives. As we exercise our generosity, touch us with new awareness of siblings you call us to love. May our gifts and prayers lift them and us unto true partnership in your service. Amen.**

## Communion

*All are invited to share in this sacramental meal in memory of Jesus Christ, there are no membership or age requirements. Come forward and take a piece of bread and a small cup. The bread is gluten-free and we serve grape juice in the cups. We believe that by sharing this meal together, we become willing and able to experience God's grace.*

### Words of Blessing

**Leader:** You call out to us, God, and you remind us how you created the stars, and then formed us from your very self. You have made us rich in color and speech, and your wisdom has guided us through every age and time.

**People:** **But we don't always listen to your call. We forget about the stars and about you. We forget the richness of this world and we don't call upon your wisdom.**

**Leader:** But you still call to us. And our hearts yearn for your justice and your peace.

**People:** **Your promises ring out throughout time. Promises of your presence and your guidance.**

### Hymn of Response:

*The United Methodist Hymnal*

*All Earth is Waiting #210, v. 1*

Alberto Taulè © 1972, 1993 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP;  
Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**Leader:** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

**People:** **You called out to Mary and Joseph, called them to be parents, and they answered your call. They were full of questions and doubts, but they were also full of hope for your promise of Emmanuel.**

**Leader:** You could have ruled from on high,

**People:** **But instead, your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.**

*Leader continues with words of institution*

### Hymn of Response

*All Earth is Waiting #210, v. 2*

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the symbol of your wholeness, of your healing, and of your hope in the world.

People: **By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all in the world.**

### Hymn of Response

*All Earth is Waiting #210, v. 3*

### The Lord's Prayer

*inclusive*

**Our Creator, God in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom<sup>\*</sup> 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kin-dom and the power  
and the glory forever. *Amen.***

<sup>\*</sup>*Kin-dom represents a hope for God's realm where we are all in community with one another.*

### Words of Invitation Serving of Elements

#### Prayer after Communion

Leader: You have spoken to us, O God, and we are transformed.

People: **We shall continue to carry your hope into the world.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*The United Methodist Hymnal (red)*

### *Hail to the Lord's Anointed #203*

James Montgomery (1821) W. H. Monk (1868, alt.)

### Benediction

### Postlude

### *Prelude on 'Hyfrydol'*

Ralph Vaughan Williams



*Note from the artist (Lauren Wright Pittman) on the image Annunciation to Zechariah: Zechariah is dressed in a breastpiece, ephod, robe, checkered tunic, turban, and sash, just as the book of Exodus specifies. In my painting, gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns are woven together and bejeweled with engraved stones which bear the names of the sons of Israel (Exodus 28:4). Zechariah stands in the Holy Place wearing the most meticulous of garments. Does he expect to encounter the divine? Or is he just going through the motions, lighting the incense as an all-too-familiar scent fills the air? After all these years of fulfilling priestly duties and “living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), Zechariah and his wife are still childless. Regardless of their desire for children, in their culture and context, childlessness bore the implication of God’s contempt. I ruminated on this image... a weary priest wrapped in layered fabrics, colors, symbols, textures, and rare stones that proclaim God’s providence and power. The contrast is not lost on me. I often try to neglect my weariness by*

*putting on a veneer of unwavering trust in God—while feeling like I may suddenly unravel into a pile of beautifully-curated threads, stones, and gold accessories. In this image, I decided to depict the angel as smoke from the altar of incense. Zechariah has one hand over his mouth in fear and disbelief, while his other hand cradles the notion—not yet hope—of his son's existence. Do you bind up your weariness in a neat and tidy bow, put your head down, and project okay-ness like me? What would it look like to acknowledge our weariness, quit powering through, and open ourselves up to what God might have in store for us? Perhaps we'll meet an angel. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

# In Our Prayers

## New in our prayers:

- **Deaths:** Larry Strom (*Eric Strom's father*) on November 26  
Ellie Kleinschrodt on Nov. 30.
- **Recuperating from surgery:** Bob Stone (*Karissa Kelley's father*) following shoulder replacement surgery.

## Holding in prayer:

- **Receiving treatment for cancer:** Judy Durfey

## Advent Party today 10:45-11:30 am

Following this morning's worship service

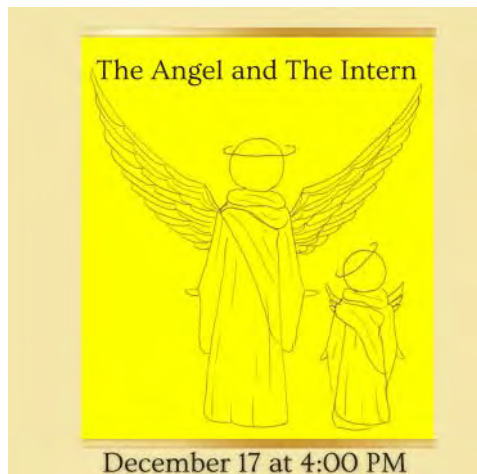


## All-Church Christmas Caroling today at 4:00 pm

**Youth Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal today** and next Sunday from 3-4 pm in Room 310.

**Christmas Pageant** on Dec. 17 at 4:00 pm followed by a dinner in Fellowship Hall

⇒ Rehearsal on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6:15-7:30 pm



## THIS WEEK AT MINNEHAHA

### Sunday Dec 3, 2023 Communion

- 9:30a Worship with Organ/Choir (Sanctuary)
- 10:45a Advent Party (Fellowship Hall, Narthex)
- 12:15p Neighborhood Basketball (Gym)
- 2:30p Rehearsal Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus (Sanctuary)
- 3p Youth Christmas Orchestra (310)
- 4p All Church Christmas Caroling
- 6p PUGA Dance group (Gym)
- 6p Rehearsal Mpls Choir Co-Op (Sanctuary)
- 7p SAA (306)

### Monday Dec 4, 2023

- 1:30p Al-Anon (306)
- 5p Toy set up (Gym)
- 6:30p Troop Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday Dec 5, 2023

- Toy set up (Gym)
- 9a Fun & Fitness Group (302/304)
- 10a Food Shelf (Fellowship Hall, Narthex)
- 10a Toy Distribution (Gym)
- 11:30a Staff Meeting
- 6p Karate Group (Gym)

### Wednesday Dec 6, 2023

- 9:10a Men's Study of Scripture & Prophetic Consciousness (210)
- 9:30a Minnehaha Playgroup (202/204)
- 5:30p Wednesday Night Dinner (Fellowship Hall and Kitchen)
- 6p Wednesday Night Childcare (Gym, 202/204)
- 6:15p Chancel Choir (310)
- 6:15p Confirmation (308)

### Thursday Dec 7, 2023

- 9a Food Shelf Board (Fellowship Hall)
- 9a Fun & Fitness Group (302/304)
- 6p Karate Group (Gym)
- 6:30p Trustees (Zoom)

### Friday Dec 8, 2023

- 10a Al-Anon (306)
- 6p Scouts Camping Gear pickup
- 6:30p RCA (306)

### Saturday Dec 9, 2023

- 9a M. Mazvydas Lithuanian Heritage School (Narthex, 206, 208, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310)
- 11a Karate Group (Gym)
- 11a Lith. School Food Prep (Kitchen)
- 12p Therapy Dog Testing (Gym)

### Sunday Dec 10, 2023

- 9:30a Worship with Band (Sanctuary)
- 10:45a Adult Faith Formation (310)
- 10:45a Faith Formation (Sunday School)
- 12p PUGA Dance group (302/304)
- 12:15p Neighborhood Basketball (Gym)
- 2:30p Rehearsal Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus (Sanctuary)
- 3p Youth Christmas Orchestra (310)
- 4p Youth Groups (302/304, 308, GYM)
- 6p Rehearsal Mpls Choir Co-Op (Sanctuary)
- 6:30p Togolese Community Church (Fellowship Hall)
- 7p SAA (306)

**Toy Drive Donations Needed**

During the 3 Tuesdays in December, Food Shelf Parents are able to select toys for their children, ranging from babies to teenagers. Parents may choose a toy, a stocking stuffer, and a hat and gloves for each of their children.. All this is made possible by the generosity of members of Minnehaha. *Every year, parents respond with "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" and "Oh my gosh, these present are so nice!" and "Can I really get a hat and gloves for each of my children?"* There are three ways you can help with this mission:

- Buy toys, hats, and gloves and bring them to church. To arrange another drop off time contact Renee Beymer.
- Write a check to the church (put Toys in the memo line)
- or give through our Donate button on the website and designate it for Christmas Toys.

With your help Good Things will, indeed, continue to Happen Here



**Feeling a Little Blue for Christmas?** Sure, there's lots to be joyful about as we approach Christmas, but the shorter days and colder temperatures don't leave everyone full of good cheer. Add in a feeling of frenzy from the rush of the season, and it already begins to feel a little overwhelming. Add in even more, a job loss or change, the loss of a loved one, a change in health, a strained friendship, a move, and it can begin to feel like we are out of sync with the joy being expressed at every turn. You are invited to rest awhile in silence, in quiet music, and in the glow of candlelight as we observe our Blue Christmas Taizé service on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Whether you need an opportunity to just sit still for a little bit, or you are looking for a way to acknowledge feelings of loss or depression, join with others for an hour of reflection and rest as we continue to find God's presence in the midst of wherever we are.

**BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!!!** There will be the annual All Church Musical in February. This year's show is "Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank" with a cast of many pirates; also Villagers, Spiderman, more pirates, zombies, a lot more pirates and others! Rehearsals start on Jan. 2 and will be on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 until the performances which are on the weekends of Feb. 3 and Feb. 10 (6 shows). All ages (older than 5) are welcome to join the cast. You do need to sing!!! Contact Maureen Trepp (612-387-2520) if you are interested or have questions.

**We are looking for Scripture Readers**

Children, Teens & Adults are encouraged & welcome to sign up!

Annette Meier will send the scripture to you on Wednesday - if you don't hear from her, or you sign up later than Wednesday, please text/call her (612) 597-1778 or e-mail at [salmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:salmeier@hotmail.com)

Here is the link to the sign-up tool:



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

It is Minnehaha tradition to decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias for the week of Christmas. If you would like to be part of this, complete the order form below and bring it to the church office (or drop it in an offering basket). The cost is \$16 per poinsettia (6.5" pot single red poinsettia). You may take your plant home after 4pm or 10pm Christmas Eve Service.

**Orders should be turned in by December 10 at noon.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please dedicate this plant in: (select one) Honor Celebration Memory Other

of: \_\_\_\_\_



ORDER YOUR  
**POINSETTIAS**

\_\_\_\_\_