

January 2023 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of January 2022.

As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 1, 2023

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

Call to Worship

Here we are on the first Sunday of a new year. For many, a new year means a fresh start. We may have made promises or resolutions for 2023, or perhaps we are hoping to break some bad habits. Maybe we'll succeed, maybe we'll fail. Let us be reminded that we are here to worship a God who always makes good on His word. In Jesus Christ, God has promised us renewal, freedom from the hold of sin and eternal salvation. "All of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. He has anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Amen!", our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

Prayer of Confession

O God, you sent Jesus to live among us as a brother and friend; teacher and prophet. By your word, in order to keep the child Jesus safe, you led Joseph away from Bethlehem and into Egypt where they relied on the kindness of strangers. We are grateful for their hospitality, on behalf of the one who saves us. Yet, we confess that we are reluctant to be that stranger to others who need kindness. Fear keeps us from opening our hearts to those new to our communities. Worries are easily kindled by strident words given voice through the media. Remind us, O God, that your mercy is not ours to hold, but has been given to share. Help us to speak and live words of hospitality to ease the burden of new neighbors and friends.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of the Holy Family, like Joseph being called to follow, we are called to follow you. As we celebrate this New Year, we pause to listen to your call in our lives. You provide direction for our journey. Lead us now, empower each of us to tell our story. Guide our actions not with one more resolution, but with true purpose and meaning. Out of this spirit, we dedicate unto you our tithes and offerings given for the ministry and mission of this congregation throughout the New Year. Amen .

January Worship

January 8, 2023

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 42:1-9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17

Call to Worship

Arise! Shine! God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year. Arise! Shine! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Arise! Shine! God's light pierces the darkness that covers the world. Arise! Shine! Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Prayer of Confession

God of Glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of glorious surprises: Like the wise men sent by Herod, we, too, come as searchers for a glimpse of your presence. As were the people in those days, we are surprised that we find you not in a palace but in a stable, surrounded by a family of poor refugees and worshiped by the lowly shepherds. Like them, our gifts from our wealth seem simultaneously too material and woefully shabby and outshined by what you have given us. Just the same, use our gifts for the work of justice, mercy, and compassion—as would befit the Savior who sleeps in a manger. It's in His holy name, we pray. Amen.

January 15, 2023

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Call to Worship

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Prayer of Confession

Covenant making God, you made us your people and gave your Son as the commitment of your love. It was by his blood that we were baptized into a right relationship with you. Yet, we make trivial both his blood and the water, which brings into the life of Your Church. Forgive us for our Sin towards you, one another, and ourselves. Restore us to harmony with you, and all creation we pray. Rekindle in us that flame of commitment to You, through your one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church. May our lives reflect your love in Christ Jesus, as we are continually reminded that you have claimed us as your beloved children.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you. Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

January Worship

January 22, 2023

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 9:1-4; Ps 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23

Call to Worship

Come and see, I am the way and the truth We come to see. We come to know. Come and see, I am calling you out of darkness. We come to see. We come to know. Come and see, I am your light and your salvation. We come to see. We come to know. We come to seek the Lord's radiant face.

Prayer of Confession

God of light, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised kingdom may draw near.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. We allow fear to rule what we do with our possessions and lives. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

January 29, 2023

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Mic 6:1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12

Call to Worship

God, you've given birth to our newborn King! You are an "in-time" God! God, you're allowing things to pass away, calling your children home, and breathing new life into a new year! You are an "on-time" God! God, you bring people together and pull them apart. You reach out of this world and into the cosmos on our behalf! You are an "outside-of-time" God! God, where hope and fear meet at the center of our lives, we find new life, in you! You are a "right now" God! We do not always know when you're coming, how you're coming into, or what you're going to do when you come into our lives. However, we rejoice knowing that you will indeed come on time. Your timing is best because you are the author and creator of time. You are an "on-time" God!

Prayer of Confession

Holy Friend, Savior, and Healer of the world, we in your church family admit to you the frustration we feel for our part in the evil that infests humanity: We are called to truth but we prefer darkness to light because our investments are there. We are called to hope but we slide into the negativity of the unkind and lost. We are called to grace, but we are at times as mean-spirited as the self-serving. We are called to mercy, but we harbor grudges and let slip insidious innuendos. We are called to faith, but we live as if everything depended on us. We are called to love, but it rarely goes beyond loving those who love us. Help us to show up in the life that you bring not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of others.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We thank you, O God, and we pray that these gifts may help this church to change people's lives and to spread your message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.

We Three Kings Of Orient Are Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

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ALLELUIA

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

STAR

BEARING

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BEAUTY BRIGHT

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WESTWARD

FIELD

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WONDER

FOLLOWING

MOOR

ROYAL

WORSHIPING

FOUNTAIN

MOUNTAIN

SACRIFICE

YONDER