

Sunday, January 3, 2021

First Sunday of the New Year



Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Velda Graham Bell, organ
recorded at Sacred Heart Music Center

arr. Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Lennon-Berini Scholarship Presentation

Terry Wallin

Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

UM Hymnal #247, v. 1 and 2

led by Michael Goodlet and Velda Graham Bell

1. *O Morning Star, how fair and bright
thou beamest forth in truth and light,
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
my Lord and Master, thou hast won
my heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy,
fair and glorious, all victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.*

2. *Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine!
O deep within my heart now shine,
and make thee there an altar!
Fill me with joy and strength to be
thy member, ever joined to thee
in love that cannot falter;
toward thee longing
doth possess me; turn and bless me;
here in sadness
eye and heart long for thy gladness!*

Prayer for the New Year

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer for a New Year:

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Almighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Concerns and Celebrations

Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Offertory *Angels from the Realms*

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Extollers

Scripture Reading

Pastors Jeanine Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon
Jeremiah 31: 7-14

- One: The Lord proclaims: Sing joyfully for the people of Jacob; shout for the leading nation. Raise your voices with praise and call out: "The Lord has saved his people, the remaining few in Israel!"
- All: **I'm going to bring them back from the north; I will gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the disabled; expectant mothers and those in labor; a great throng will return here. With tears of joy they will come; while they pray, I will bring them back. I will lead them by quiet streams and on smooth paths so they don't stumble.**
- One: Listen to the Lord's word, you nations, and announce it to the distant islands: The one who scattered Israel will gather them and keep them safe, as a shepherd his flock. The Lord will rescue the people of Jacob and deliver them from the power of those stronger than they are.
- All: **They will come shouting for joy on the hills of Zion, jubilant over the Lord's gifts: grain, wine, oil, flocks and herds. Their lives will be like a lush garden; they will grieve no more. Then the young women will dance for joy; the young and old men will join in.**
- One: I will turn their mourning into laughter and their sadness into joy; I will comfort them. I will lavish the priests with abundance and shower my people with my gifts, declares the Lord.

John 1:1-17

- One: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.
- All: **What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.**
- One: A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.
- All: **The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.**
- One: The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.
- All: **The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.**
- One: John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"
- All: **From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Step by Step, Grace Upon Grace

Bishop David Bard



Holy Communion

Pastors Jeanine Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Hymn *The First Noël*

UM Hymnal #245, v. 1, 4, 5
led by Emma Rustan

1. The first Noël the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,

right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
born is the King of Israel.

Benediction

Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Postlude *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Velda Graham Bell, organ
recorded at Sacred Heart Music Center



The Extollers is our reunion bell choir. Anyone who has ever been a part of FUMC's handbell program is invited to rehearse once and then to ring on Christmas Eve. While the Extollers were unfortunately not able to gather this year, we are grateful to Todd Hinnenkamp for allowing us to use "Angels from the Realms," which he recorded on Christmas Eve 2016.

A gift to light the church the week of January 3 was given in loving memory of Dorothy Aubut. Dorothy was Sharon and Patrick Alexander's mother and Pastor Jeanine's grandmother. "She lit up our world and lives on in our hearts."

We welcome Bishop David Bard, who, along with his appointment as bishop of the Michigan area, is now serving as the interim bishop of the Minnesota Conference following the retirement of Bishop Bruce Ough on December 31, 2020.

Thank you to Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner for recording, compiling, editing and distributing the videos to create our online worship service.

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