

## THIS WEEK

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:00a Worship

9:00a Sunday School

10:00a Fellowship, Cookies and Coffee

7:00p Candlelight Service

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**Church Office Closed**

**NO** Preaching with the Pastor

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

10:00a Adult Bible Study—Office Conference Room

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31—NEW YEAR'S EVE**

9:00a Worship

9:00a Sunday School

10:00a Fellowship, Cookies and Coffee

There will be a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018**, immediately following worship. The **purpose is to elect one Elder** to fill the vacancy left by Pat Marrone who is moving to Reno Nevada.

**THIS WEEK: Sunday thru Saturday—5:00p HART Winter Shelter  
Our Prayer Room (B3) Wed. 7:00p; Sun. 8:30a**

**Journey Church** (Office Hours 10am-2pm M-W-Th)

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#### Session

Anne Indermill

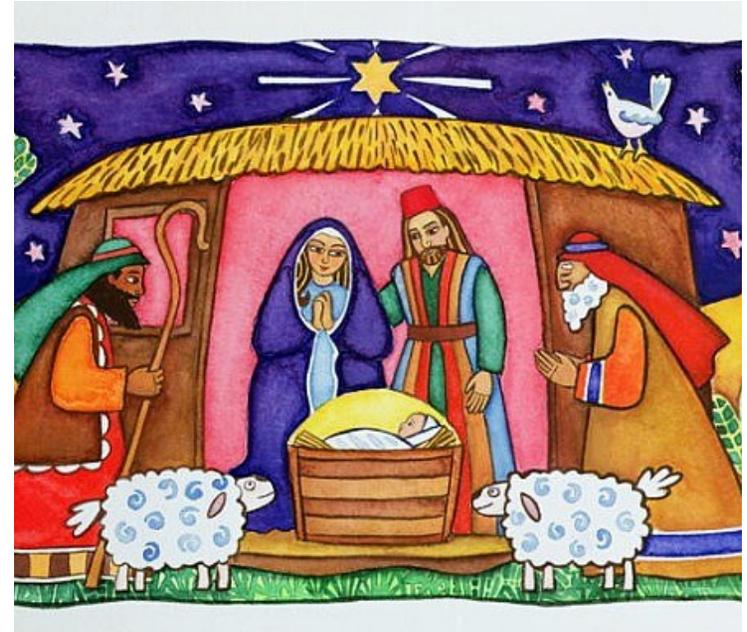
Fred Jonas

Wayne Mitchell

Cathy Godwin, Clerk of Session

Kathy Noia

Gene Oliphant



*"Nativity"*

*by Cathy Baxter*

***Welcoming all people in the name of Christ.  
Expressing the love of God to the World.  
Trusting the Power of the Holy Spirit  
as we serve the Kingdom of God.***

**Worship 9:00am  
December 24, 2017—Christmas Eve  
4th Sunday of Advent**

# Today's Worship

"Welcome to Journey Church"

**"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;  
and they knelt down and paid him homage.  
Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him  
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."**

**\*Call to Worship** Anne Indermill

Come, let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that God has done.

**Let us follow the star to the manger and take in God's love reflected  
in a cattle stall.**

Come, let us go with haste to Bethlehem and marvel at the Christ-child in  
the manger.

**Let us bow down, as with the wise men, and pay him homage.**

Let us worship the God!

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**\*Sung Response "The Candle of Hope"**

**\*Hymn "The First Noel" #179**

**\*Confession of Sin**

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of  
the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and  
traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. And yet,  
merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod:  
whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for  
control more compelling than the needs of others. Humble us. Take us  
to our knees before the Babe in the Manger that we, too, might embody  
God's love for the world.

**Moment for Silent Prayer**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

God's light is present in this world:

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.**

**We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

#142

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Welcome and Invitation to Discipleship**

**Children's Message and Coin Collection for Mission**

**\*Praise Music "What Child is This?"**

**Scripture** Matthew 2:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

**Sermon "Beside the Manger ~The Wise Men"**

Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins

**Special Music "Mary, Did You Know?"** Mark Indermill, Saxophone  
Sam Knight, Piano

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth. We believe in Jesus  
the Christ - God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet  
unborn - who emerges as the herald of hope. Plunged into death and  
hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of  
promise where "justice will roll down like the waters and righteousness  
like an ever-flowing stream".**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

#382

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn "The Debut"**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude "The Birthday of a King"**

Sam Knight

**\*All who are able, please stand.**