

*First***CHURCH**
First United Methodist Church of Boulder

1421 Spruce Street Boulder, CO 80302

303.442.3770

www.fumcboulder.org

10:30 am Worship

Sunday, December 27, 2020

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Christmas Lights”

by May Sarton

When everyone had gone
I sat in the library
With the small silent tree,
She and I alone.
How softly she shone!
And for the first time then
For the first time this year,
I felt reborn again,
I knew love’s presence near.
Love distant, love detached
And strangely without weight,
Was with me in the night
When everyone had gone
And the garland of pure light
Stayed on, stayed on.

PRELUDE “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
Jordan Ortman, organ

Traditional Polish carol

HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

THE CALL

HYMN “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Jennie Elliott

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It’s written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.”) They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what’s stated in the Law of the Lord, *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn’t die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus’ parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, “Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.”

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

SPECIAL MUSIC	“The Work of Christmas” Kirsten Carpenter-Ortman, soprano Jordan Ortman, piano	Poem by Howard Thurman, Music by Dan Forrest
SERMON	<i>Getting Down on the Floor</i>	Rev. Michael Mather
PRAYERS		Rev. Michael Mather
BENEDICTION		Rev. Michael Mather
POSTLUDE	“The First Noel” Jordan Ortman, organ	Traditional English carol

***This week, as we all live into the things around us,
let’s remember to offer peace to one another.***

THANK YOU to all who contributed their time and talents to today’s service:

Kirsten Carpenter-Ortman
Jennie Elliott
Jordan Ortman

There will be no Zoom Coffee Hour after worship today.

Happy New Year!

Join Us Online for Worship Next Sunday, January 3, 2021!
10:30 am MDT on Our Website and Facebook

The lovely poinsettias beautifying our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season were given by Fran and Rich Saxon in memory of the many friends who have passed away during this last year.

December Special Offering Split between Pastor's Love Fund and the Nederland Food Pantry

The December special offering will be divided 50-50 between the Pastor's Love Fund and the Nederland Food Pantry, which our youth have supported for a number of years with volunteer work and collecting supplies. The Love Fund enables Pastor Mike to assist folks who are needing some extra help with food security, rent payments, medical expenses, gas money, and other needs that arise in everyday life. The Nederland Food Pantry helps fight food insecurity for clients in the Nederland area, and also has a clothing closet to make clothes available to those that need them, free of charge. To contribute, please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church, and write "December special offering" in the memo line. You can mail your check to the church at 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. If you'd prefer to give online through our website, click on the green "Give" tab in the upper right corner of the homepage, click the "Donate Now" button, and type in the amount you'd like to give on the line for "December Mission Offering." Thank you for your generous support of this special offering.

Giving to FUMC During the Pandemic

Just a reminder that FUMC can still receive your offering gifts to support God's work in the world. Mail is still being checked several times each week in the church office, so you can mail checks, made payable to First United Methodist Church, to 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. You can also give online via our website: <https://fumcboulder.org/about/donating/>. Thank you.