

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

welcome

lake harriet
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Walking Together the
Words and Ways of Jesus

Inclusive, Intergenerational, and In Community

Walking together the words and ways of Jesus. We welcome all God's children whatever their race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability. Following Christ's example, we open our hearts, minds, and doors to welcome all.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin, or any color of skin, you are welcome.

If you are married or single, you are welcome.

If you are gay, straight, transgender-whatever pronouns you use, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are a perfect person, then you probably don't need a church, but if you are like us and are imperfect, mistake-making, still-trying, need all the encouragement I can get kind of person, then this is a community for you and you are welcome.

If you sing like a rock star or an opera singer, or you can not sing at all, you are welcome.

Whenever you arrived and however you came here, you are welcome.

If you believe in God some of the time or all of the time, or you're just beginning to explore who God is, you are welcome.

Come with your gifts, your pain, your hope, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind, ready to engage, and a heart, open to discern.

Come and listen for the Holy Spirit that calls you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace and practice compassion.

You are welcome here!

Adapted from a welcome by Gordon Brown, published in Shaping Sanctuary



Connect with Us



Let Us Know You Are Here

Please register your attendance through the welcome pad.



Enewsletter

Stay informed by subscribing to our enews and view the latest enews.



Visit Us Online

Stay informed, register for ministry events, give online, and more.



Prayer Requests

Let our staff pray for you and others in your life (prayers are confidential).



Share your talents

The opportunities abound to help your community, find where you fit.



WiFi

Access the church's WiFi with the password: LHUMCGuest.



Hearing Enhancement Aids

T-coil hearing assistance is available throughout the Sanctuary. Turn your hearing aid to the T (telephone) position or see a sound team member at the back of the sanctuary for wireless headphones.

welcome to worship!

Please note the following, the congregation reads/sings/prays the words in bold-faceprint and the ↑ symbol invites you to rise in body and/or spirit.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

A: In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

B: Let us begin together.
Let us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down.
Let us begin with words of peace.

A: Yes, let us begin with peace.

B: Today we light the candles of hope and peace.
May these lights remind us of what could be.
May these lights mark a new beginning.
May peace flow like a river,
And may it start with us.

A: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.
May we begin again.

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

Emmanuel

Come, come, Em - man - u - el! Son of God, ap - pear.
Heav - en and earth, re-joyce! Sal - va-tion is draw-ing near.

↑ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world that is lonely,

All: we will save a seat for you.

One: In a world that is anxious,

All: we will light candles against the doom.

One: In a world that is weary,

All: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

One: I am not alone.

All: We are not alone.

One: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

All: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

↑ HYMN

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
 4. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the
 there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as the
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ey hum - ming with the

Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:

hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look east:
 course the flower may flour - ish.
 sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look east:
 word, the Lord is com - ing.

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SHARE A GREETING

RAINBOW CHAT

Ariel Johnson
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

SONG*El Burrito de Belén*

Con mi burrito sabanero voy camino de Belén (x 2)
Si me ven, si me ven voy camino de Belén. (x 2)

Con mi cuatrico voy cantando y mi burrito va trotando. (x 2)
Si me ven, si me ven, voy camino de Belén. (x 2)

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1

The Message

Once upon a time—it was back in the days when judges led Israel—there was a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem in Judah left home to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The man’s name was Elimelech; his wife’s name was Naomi; his sons were named Mahlon and Kilion—all Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They all went to the country of Moab and settled there.

Elimelech died and Naomi was left, she and her two sons. The sons took Moabite wives; the name of the first was Orpah, the second Ruth. They lived there in Moab for the next ten years. But then the two brothers, Mahlon and Kilion, died. Now the woman was left without either her young men or her husband.

One day she got herself and her two daughters-in-law together, to leave the country of Moab and set out for home; she had heard that God had been pleased to visit his people and give them food. And so she started out from the place she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law with her, on the road back to the land of Judah.

After a short while on the road, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law, “Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may God treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May God give each of you a new home and a new husband!” She kissed them and they cried openly.

They said, “No, we’re going on with you to your people.”

But Naomi was firm: “Go back, my dear daughters. Why would you come with me? Do you suppose I still have sons in my womb who can become your future husbands? Go back, dear daughters—on your way, please! I’m too old to get a husband. Why, even if I said, ‘There’s still hope!’ and this very night got a man and had sons, can you imagine being satisfied to wait until they were grown? Would you wait that long to get married again? No, dear daughters; this is a bitter pill for me to swallow—more bitter for me than for you. God has dealt me a hard blow.”

Again they cried openly. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on.

Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her.”

But Ruth said, “Don’t force me to leave you; don’t make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I’ll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I’ll die, and that’s where I’ll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!”

When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem the whole town was soon buzzing: "Is this really our Naomi? And after all this time!"

But she said, "Don't call me Naomi; call me Bitter. The Strong One has dealt me a bitter blow. I left here full of life, and God has brought me back with nothing but the clothes on my back. Why would you call me Naomi? God certainly doesn't. The Strong One ruined me."

And so Naomi was back, and Ruth the foreigner with her, back from the country of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

New Revised Standard
Version Updated Edition

The Value of a Friend

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

One: This is a Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG

Comfort, Comfort O My People



1. "Com - fort, com - fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o'er all the world;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: I have tried to make my own way.
I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.
I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.
But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

**All: We will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.**

One: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**All: Now we need your help.
We, too, have tried to make our own way.
We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,
to kindle our own faiths.
We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.
But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?**

One: I will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.

**All: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.
Alleluia! Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Unison) **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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY



OFFERING BOX
is found in the back
of the sanctuary



GIVE ONLINE
by visiting our website
at lakeharrietumc.org



SCAN THE QR CODE
with your
smartphone camera



MAIL IN TO
4901 Chowen Ave S
Minneapolis, MN
55410

OFFERTORY

We Are Not Alone

(Pepper Choplin)

Sanctuary Choir

Joeeun Kim*, solo

(* Ruth and Marv Mandery Music Scholarship recipient)

↑ DOXOLOGY

What can I give him, poor— as I am? If I were a shep-herd,
 I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise One, I would do my
 part; yet what I can I give Him: I will give my heart.

↑ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

We believe in a with-us God:

a God who walks with us in the valley,
 dances with us on the mountaintop,
 sings with us through the night
 and rejoices in the morning.

We believe that this with-us God

wired us for relationship,
 saying to creation on the very first week,
 “Humans should not be alone.”

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
 we strive to live like the Trinity—
 connected, united, and centered.

We believe in the power of community.

We commit to learning each other’s names.

**We choose to journey with each other,
 like Ruth with Naomi.**

And we remember that no one can go through life alone.

Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

↑ HYMN

Dare to Live the Dream God Gave You

1. Dare to live the dream God gives you, seek out paths as yet un-known,
 2. When the dread of doubt as - sails you, and the road re - mains un - clear,
 3. Jour - ney on with true com - pan-ions, join - ing hands and shar - ing bread,
 4. Dare to live the dream God gives us, brave the path, and face the fear,

for the Spir - it leads you on - ward, and you nev - er walk a - lone.
 yet our faith - ful God will guide you through the doubt and dread of fear.
 for we share a com - mon jour - ney and in friend - ship we are fed.
 for the Spir - it will u - nite us; Christ him - self is al - ways near.

Refrain

Go in cour-age, walk - ing hum - bly, bear - ing love none can de - stroy.

Do - ing jus - tice, lov - ing mer - cy, go with God, and go in joy.

↑ BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.

So start here. Start now.

Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Karen Bruins

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries: Ariel Johnson

Director of Music Ministries: Jungjoo Park

Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

Advent Candle Lighters: Dietrich Family

Liturgy & Scripture Reader: Kim Grant

Sound Technician: Dave Bruins

Streaming: Michael Perry

Slides: Matt Davis

Greeters: Lauren Braswell, Chris Fondell, Jane Kammerman, Ken Larson

Hospitality: Norma Bayers, Anne Bauers

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SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

This Week at Lake Harriet

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

- 9:30am In Person and Online Worship - 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 10:30am Godly Play (3yrs - 3rd Grade) - Godly Play Room
- 10:30am Bible Black Belts (4th & 5th Grade) - BBB Dojo Room
- 10:30am UWF Soup & Bake Sale - Reception Room
- 10:45am LH Men's Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 10:45am Meaning of Protestantism - Fireside Room
- 11:00am Science & Faith Book Study - Zoom
- 6:30pm Good News Big Band Concert - Sanctuary

MONDAY DECEMBER 9

- 7:00pm Outreach Team Meeting - Zoom

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10

- 10:00am Knitting(crafting) Group - Commons
- 7:00pm Men's Forum - Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11

- 5:15pm Family Dinner - Reception Room
- 5:30pm Prime Chimers (4th Grade & Up) - Bell Room
- 5:45pm Children & Youth Caroling at the Waters - Meet in Commons
- 6:30pm Festival Bells Rehearsal - Bell Room
- 6:30pm Shout Band Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Youth Christmas Party - Youth Room
- 7:30pm LH Men's Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 7:45pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

- 10:00am Lessons and Carols Rehearsal - Sanctuary

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

- 9:30am A Service of Lessons & Carols In Person and Online Worship - 3rd Sunday in Advent
- 10:30am Godly Play (3yrs - 3rd Grade) - Godly Play Room
- 10:30am Bible Black Belts (4th & 5th Grade) - BBB Dojo Room
- 10:45am Christmas Eve Orchestra Rehearsal



DECEMBER 8 6:30PM

Good News Big Band Christmas Concert

Hosted at Lake Harriet UMC

Get in the Christmas spirit this season with the big band sounds of the Good News Big Band!

The concert is free. Everyone of all ages are welcome!
Learn more, www.gnbb.org



A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF TRUST INC.

Wreath of Love

The giving name tags are available for your choosing. Each recipient will receive two gifts, a larger (\$10-\$20) and smaller gift (\$5-\$10). For many, these will be the only gifts of kindness they receive during the holidays.

Wrapped gifts are due back on December 12th to the church. Questions: Call Steve Huderle, 612-669-6543.



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

The Christmas Eve Orchestra

Calling all instrumentalists! We play at the family service on Christmas Eve. This year there will be only one family service at 4pm.

Rehearsals: Sundays, Dec. 15th and 22nd after the worship service and coffee hour.

To join, talk to Jungjoo or email jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org.

Lessons and Carols

The Music Ministry invites you to the annual Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 15th at 9:30 am during the regular worship hour. Come join us and hear the retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus, the fulfillment of God's long-awaited promise, through scriptures and songs.



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

Advent 2024

December 8 – PEACE

2nd Sunday of Advent, Ruth 1, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
“We Can’t Go Alone”

December 15 – JOY

3rd Sunday of Advent, Service of Lessons and Carols
“Do the Good That is Yours to Do”

December 19 – Longest Night Service, 6:30 pm

December 22 – LOVE

4th Sunday of Advent, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:46-55
“Hope is Worth the Risk”

December 24 – Christmas Eve

- **1:00 pm** Traditional Service, Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:6
“Love Knows Your Name,” Carols, Candlelight, and Communion
- **4:00 pm** Family service with the Christmas Orchestra and Children’s no-rehearsal Christmas play
- **10:00 pm** Candlelight Service, Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:6
“Love Knows Your Name,” Carols and Candlelight

December 29 – Healing Prayers

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 43:16
“The Road Isn’t Straight”



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Get Your Own Nativity Set

A Host of Holy Families, a Crush of Creches, Numerous Nativities!

There are over 200 Nativity scenes on display in the Reception room and Commons. Please enjoy, and if one calls to you, label it with your name and you can take it home after Sunday the 22nd.

Blessings and Merry Christmas, Julie and Bill Konrardy

Connect with Staff

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Land Acknowledgement

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church is located on the land of the Wahpekute, one of the seven council fires of the Ocheti Sakowin (commonly Dakotah) peoples. We recognize and pay tribute to the indigenous people who called this land home for centuries before us.



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