

*(Words in Italics are not on the screen)*

## **Welcome & Announcements (Amy & Kathy)**

*Introduction of self and mention of the mission of Morning Star:*

*~Our mission is to point people to the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.*

Advent Activities

1. Advent Calendar (Activities and Special Services) Available today!
2. Christmas Cards by Kids, A Pack of 12 for \$26. Limited edition. For Sale 11/28 (change in price and date).
3. Advent Study, Wednesday at 6 OR Sundays at 9:30 (beginning 11/24 and 11/28). 4 weeks. The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch by Matt Rawle, available online. Led by Mike and Tina Wilson.

Spreading Christmas Cheer (Donation Asks)

1. Photo Booth, Donations of Christmas Decoration Needed Now, Opens 12/12
2. 12 Days of Christmas for Camino (Already Funded, Thank you!) Opportunities to participate - wrapping gifts, delivering gifts.
3. Jardín de los Niños Gift Cards (Money for 65 \$100 Gift Cards) Jardin Gift Cards in memo and dropdown menu. Deadline: November 30.
4. Staff Gifts, Organized by Church Leadership Board, by 12/19. "Staff Appreciation" in memo or dropdown menu.

## **Call to Worship (Amy)**

Someone: Children of God: welcome!

**Everyone: Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance,

**God invites all of us to be part of the beloved community,**

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

## **Peace (Amy)**

*Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.*

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Opening Hymn: UMC#131 We Gather Together v 1-3**

**1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

**2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!**

**3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

## Video: Realigned Again

### Scripture Reading (Stuart)

#### Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*This is the Word of God for the People of God . . .*

*Thanks be to God.*

### Sermon (Stuart)

### Pastoral Prayer (Stuart)

*...and we continue to pray as he taught his disciples . . .*

### The Lord's Prayer (Stuart)

**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.**

## **Special Music: Canon of Grace (Bell Choir)**

### **Offering (Amy)**

### **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Hymn: UMC#92 For the Beauty of the Earth v 1, 2, 4**

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

## Holy Communion (Amy)

### *Invitation*

*The invitation to this Table and the participation in this sacred meal that we call Holy Communion is not exclusive. Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, Pharisees and legal experts. Regardless of how you come to this Table today, know that you are welcome because not one of us is in need of God's grace any more or any less than the next person.*

### **Confession**

**God, giver of all good things, it is in your abundant provision that we gather together. We acknowledge that gratitude is central to our Christian identity, and we confess our tendency to neglect expressing our thanksgiving to you. Forgive us for making thanksgiving merely a reaction to our circumstances. Remind us that gratitude is a way of life. Help us to grow into an attitude of humility and generosity.**

### **Pardon**

*Friends, hear this good news. In the name of Jesus Christ, who modeled for us a life of gratitude and generosity, even to the point of death on a cross, we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### *Institution*

*While he was gathered in the Upper Room with his friends, celebrating the Passover Feast, the first thing Jesus did with both the loaf and the cup was to give thanks for it.*

**[DEMONSTRATE WITH BREAD]**

*This is my body, broken for your healing, he said.*

*[DEMONSTRATE WITH CUP]*

*This is my blood, poured out for your salvation, he said.*

*We hear these words every time we celebrate this meal, but do we reflect on the depth of this thanksgiving?*

*Thanksgiving for:*

- *God's provision*
- *for the company with whom Jesus shares it*
- *for the broken body that will bring wholeness to the broken*
- *for the blood shed that will bring the forgiveness of sins to many*
- *for our communion here today.*

### ***Consecration***

*With these blessings in mind, we give thanks for the presence of God in this holy meal.*

*Let us pray . . .*

**With thankful hearts, we gather at your Table. Please feed us once again with the loaf and the cup. May they be the very Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, binding us with Christ and one another. May the grace of this Table extend beyond this time and place so that we are joined with the faithful of every time and place. Amen.**

### ***[DISTRIBUTION]***

*Beloved, with gratitude in our hearts for the faithfulness of God, I invite you to partake with me now, as we remember, once again...*

**This is the body of Christ, broken for you.**

*(The bread is served, followed by a moment of silent reflection.)*

This is the cup of salvation, poured out for you.  
(*The cup is served, followed by a moment of silent reflection.*)

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*In this live moment of God's grace, may we recognize once again that we who are many are one, called to unity in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let us pray . . .*

### *Prayer after Receiving*

**Dear Jesus, every time we eat and drink this meal together, we do it in remembrance of you, as a reminder of your love and provision. As we leave the Table nourished in body and soul, we ask your blessing on the many tables we will eat at this week. May they be tables of blessing for those who break bread together. We also lift up those who will not know tables of blessing this week due to poverty, loneliness, incarceration, broken relationships or distance. May you provide for them as each needs and may the leftovers of this Table and our Thanksgiving tables not be limited to food but also love and compassion for those in need. Amen.**

### **Affirmation of Faith (Amy)**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn: UMC #139 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty v 1, 2, 5**

**1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him,  
for he is thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!**

**2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er  
all things so wondrously reigning  
bears thee on eagle's wings,  
e'er in his keeping maintaining.**

**God's care enfolds all,  
whose true good he upholds.  
Hast thou not known his sustaining?**

**5. Praise to the Lord! O let all  
that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,**

come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

### **Benediction (Stuart)**

Go into your week  
with your ears pitched  
to the sound of God's voice calling your name.  
Go into your week  
with your eyes peeled  
for the face of Jesus in unexpected places.  
Go into your week  
with your soul poised  
to receive the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Peace.

**Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!**