



**PRELUDE** *In the Bleak Midwinter,*  
by Cristina Rosetti & Gustav Holst  
- David Little, piano

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A new day has dawned, a new year is about to begin!

**We give thanks for new opportunities and fresh starts.**

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

**O Lord, keep us in your ways and on your path.**

We enter this new year with hope and anticipation.

**O Lord, remind us that you lead us;  
guide us as we look to you in the days to come,  
and guide us now in this time of worship,  
as we sing praise to the One whose birth  
brings newness of life to all.**

**HYMN #107** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**As the new year dawns, we welcome you  
into our hearts and into the world.  
With the angels who sang at Christ's birth  
we sing 'Glory to God in the highest!'  
With sages and saints, we offer gifts of praise  
and the gratitude of our hearts,  
for the Savior of the world has come!**

**RESPONSE #134** *Joy to the World*

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND CONFESSION**

**Creative God, you make all things new  
in heaven and on earth.  
We come to you on the brink of a new year,  
with new desires and old fears,  
new decisions and old controversies,  
new dreams and old weaknesses.  
Because you are a God of hope,  
we know that you create all the  
possibilities of the future.  
Because you are a God of love,  
we know that you forgive and transform  
all the mistakes of the past.  
Because you are the God of our faith,  
we offer our thanksgiving and praise,  
and our desire to trust you more.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—from 2Corinthians 5:17- 18:

*"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away; see, everything has  
become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us  
to himself through Christ, and has given us the  
ministry of reconciliation."*

In Christ Jesus we are a renewed community.

**Thanks be to God!**

Old things are done away with,  
all things become new.

**Thanks be to God!**

We are agents of grace and reconciliation.

**Thanks be to God!**

With every step or stumble,  
Christ will be with us.

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**CAROL #119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Some Children See Him,*  
by Wihla Hutson & Alfred Burt  
- David Little, piano/vocal

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Isaiah 40:1-5  
Luke 1:68-79

**MESSAGE** The Doors of History

**HYMN #121** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory  
now and forever. Amen.*

**HYMN #136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *We Wish You a Merry Christmas,*  
Sunday Schoolers Bell Choir:  
- Cathy Draper  
- Faye Rea  
- Jett Karpowicz  
- Titan Karpowicz  
- Malechi Morris