

## **PRAISES – THANKSGIVINGS – CONCERNS TO LIFT IN PRAYER**

*Please post your PRAISES – THANKSGIVINGS – CONCERNS on the bulletin board next to the church office door ...*

*OR ... call, email the church office or drop it in the mailbox.*

*Please do NOT use last names unless you have permission to do so.*

*We will gladly list your request in the bulletin for four (4) weeks beginning the next Sunday.*

*If you wish for us to continue praying for your request, simply let us know after the four weeks are up.*

### **DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

... Our Mission ... Our Community & World Outreach ... Our Leadership Council ... Our Congregation ...  
... Our Sister UMC Churches of the Back Mountain ... Our Susquehanna UMC Conference ...

### **THESE WHO HAVE BEEN NAMED:**

Myron; Chelsea; Joann; Dean; (1)

Amy; Matt; Mary Ann; Diana; (2)

Ned; Justin; Bryan; (3)

### **THOSE IN PERSONAL CARE / REHAB FACILITIES, OR SHUT-IN AT HOME ...**

Sharon Miers; Elizabeth Covert; June Houser; Eleanor Fleming; Ruby Fulkersin; Hazel Garris;  
Larna Hoyt; Jane Kaminski; Eula Lewis; Ann Lynch; Evelyn Weaver; Rev. Jim Wert;

### **THE FAMILIES & LOVED ONES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY**

Jan Valick; (1)

### **THOSE STRUGGLING / DEALING WITH**

Physical & Mental Health Issues ... Addictions

### **THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY AND WHO HAVE DIED DUE TO ...**

... Lack of Food and Clean Water ... Preventable Diseases ... Covid19 Pandemic ...  
... Natural Disasters ... Wars, Terrorism, & Other Acts of Violence – specifically those being targeted  
because of their ethnicity, or their gender, or their skin color, or their faith.

### **THOSE STRUGGLING / DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES & CHALLENGES...**

Education ... Finances ... Employment ... Relationships ... Being in Prison ... Being Released from Prison

### **OUR NATION**

Volunteers ... Health Care Workers ... First Responders ... Leaders at All Levels ... Armed Forces Personnel

### **OTHER NATIONS AND LEADERS OF THE WORLD**

Including Our Enemies & Those We Simply Disagree With

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

“FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS”

Liturgical Color – White



## DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### **TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION**

***“Jesus matured in wisdom and years,  
and in favor with God and with people.”***

~ Luke 2:52 ~

***“The word of Christ must live in you richly.  
Whatever you do, whether in speech or action,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”***

~ Colossians 3:16a, 17a ~

\* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE ... **A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON OUR SAVIOR, LORD, AND KING – JESUS!**

OPENING PRAYER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

We have celebrated the birth of Jesus, but how shall we know him when he comes?

**How shall we greet and respond to the Promised One?**

Will Jesus come to us as a prince or a pauper?

**Will we see him in those of greatest need?**

Lord, make us truly ready to receive the gift of Jesus, your beloved Son

**Open our hearts to the good news Jesus brings to us.**

\* *O Come, All Ye Faithful* # 234 (verses 1, 6)

\* *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* # 229

\* *Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy* # 235

\* *Away in a Manger* # 217

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison followed by silence for personal confession)

**Lord, it's only one days after the Christmas celebration and we are exhausted.**

**People have come and gone; gatherings are winding down;**

**we are being reminded of the "normalcy" of life returning to us.**

**We don't want to go there just yet. We want to linger in the warmth of the season.**

**Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time.**

**Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter  
and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time.**

**Give us courage to live as people of the Light,**

**those who find your comforting, encouraging presence in our lives at all times.**

**And help us to mature in our faith, that your word might richly live in us.**

**Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

*That Boy-Child of Mary*

# 241

\* A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing – [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,**

**making our weakness his strength,**

**securing our salvation by becoming one of us,**

**blessing us with a steadfast savior,**

**filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,**

**giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,**

**making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,**

**declaring an everlasting reign of peace,**

**defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,**

**inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,**

**transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,**

**sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,**

**challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

**This we believe. This we preach.**

**This we seek to embody in word and deed.**

**Amen and Amen.**

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

**Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee;  
a humble heart, that I may hear thee;  
a heart of love, that I may serve thee;  
a heart of faith, that I may abide in thee.  
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

\* *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

# 224

WHERE CHILDREN BELONG

# 2233 (sing twice)

***This, this is where children belong,  
Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:  
This is where children belong.***

\* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Gracious God, we praise you for the greatest gift, salvation in your Son Jesus.  
In him, we find deep and abiding joy.  
As we dedicate our offerings, we devote ourselves to your service.  
Help us to live faithfully, growing in wisdom in the light of the miracle of Christmas.  
Thank you for giving us opportunities to bring tidings of joy to our neighbors  
through the ministries of this congregation.  
Amen.**

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

*(Ecumenical Text)*

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Is yours a life of faith that is maturing?

How so?

Can others (family and friends) see or notice spiritual growth in your words and actions?

GOD'S WORD:

Luke 2:41-52 ... Colossians 3:12-17

*(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God"*

Remember ... the first part of the Gospel is BELIEVING IN Jesus  
... the second part of the Gospel is BECOMING LIKE Jesus.

Are you more like Jesus today than you were yesterday or last month or last year?

*The First Noel*

Rachel Bird

\* BENEDICTION

TODAY'S MESSAGE

**"MATURING LIVES OF FAITH"**

\* *Joy to the World*

# 246 (verses 1, 2)

PRAYER FOR A NEW HEART

Dag Hammarskjöld

**Thou who art over us,  
Thou who art one of us,  
Thou who art:**