

*“Lighthouses don’t go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.”*

*–Anne Lamott*



Illustration by DUCC

**Prelude** *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, arr. Thomas Keesecker

**Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**

**Centering Song** *Arise, Shine!*

Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
And the glory of our God has risen upon you like the sun.  
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.  
Lift your eyes, look around, rejoice.

**Call to Community**

One: We are searching for a light to guide us.

**All: Arise, shine for our light has come!**

One: We are longing for inspiration to motivate us.

**All: The glory of the God has risen upon us.**

One: We are wishing for the world to change.

**All: Look around: people are looking for God’s light in us.**

One: We are ready to see what God can do!

**All: Our hearts rejoice in God’s glory! We join together to shine!**

**\*Opening Hymn** *The First Nowell*/New Century Hymnal #139

**Opening Prayer**

O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity,  
dazzle us into your presence this new year.

Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

Stop us often, we pray

with news that is good

with hope that holds

with truth that transforms with a Word

tailored to this trail we’re on.

May the word of your grace guide our steps

like the sun by day

and the north star by night,

as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

**January 5, 2025**

**Epiphany**

We’re so glad you’ve joined us today. Please feel free to ask any questions and participate or not in any parts of the worship service as you desire.

**Today’s Pastors**

Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Rev. Jim DeVries

**Service Volunteers**

Usher: Tom Fahlstrom

Greeters: Sue Scott, Larry Fuerst

Offertory: Virginia Stuart,  
Stan Greene, Jennifer Schwarb

Acolyte: Barb Witt

Reader: Ginny Mikita

Sound Board: Vicky Cobb

Video Camera: Toni Perrine

**Staff**

Pastors

**Rev. Jody Betten**

[jody@douglasucc.org](mailto:jody@douglasucc.org)

**Rev. Dan Plasman**

[dan@douglasucc.org](mailto:dan@douglasucc.org)

Music Director **Peter Black**

Cantor **Jeff Spangler**

Admin Asst. **Julie Ridl**

[julie@douglasucc.org](mailto:julie@douglasucc.org)

Phone **269.857.2085**

**Worship**

Sundays at 10am

**Quiet Contemplation**

Thursdays at 5pm

**Join Us after Church**

After Service for Coffee Hour and treats at our Church Office building, 88 Spring Street (the white house just West of the Church).

*Asterisk (\*) means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Congregational voice parts look like this.

[And service music lyrics look like this.](#)

**DOUGLAS UCC**



## Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.  
Many: And also with you.  
One: Let us share peace with one another

## \*Passing the Peace *Children of God*

Children of God, let's love one another. Love is a gift, a blessing of God.  
Love one another, sisters and brothers. Love is a gift of God. (last time)  
Love is a gift, Love is a gift, Love is a gift from God

## Ancient Reading **Matthew 2:1-12**

## Contemporary Reading Diana Butler Bass

## Reflection *Guides for the Journey/Rev. Linda Knieriemen*

## Moment of Quiet

## Offering and Offertory *You Are the Light of the World* Jeff Spangler Words and Music by Paul A. Tate

## Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!      **Many: Alleluia!**  
One: O God,                      **Many: Hear our prayer.**

## \*Doxology *Praise God for Miracles*

Praise God for miracles of birth,  
Praise Light that shines o'er all the earth,  
Praise Love incarnate come to dwell,  
On earth with us, Emmanuel.

## Celebration of Holy Communion

One: God be with you.                      **Many: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.                      **Many: We lift them up to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God.      **Many: It is good to give God thanks  
and praise.**

## Creation's Praise *Santo, Santo!*

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.  
Mi corazon te sabe decir, santo eres Dios.  
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words, You are holy God.

## \*Sharing of the Bread and Cup *(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)*

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. Amen.  
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer *(sung to the tune of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)*

Creator God who reigns above, Most ho-ly is\_ your name.  
Your kindom come, your will be done, On Earth as heaven the same.  
Provide today the food we need; forgive us as we\_ forgive.  
Lead us away from harmful paths, and guide us as we live.  
For yours the kin--dom, power, and grace, With glo-ry shining bright.  
Forevermore, through every age, Your love our guiding light.  
Amen, Amen, let voices sing, From earth\_ to heaven's wide span,  
With joy and peace\_, your praises ring, Forevermore! Amen!

## Ways to be Love in the World

## \*Hymn of Sending *Go Tell it On The Mountain/New Century Hymnal #154*

## \*Benediction

Postlude *Shine on Us/Cornet solo by Nancy Plantinga;*  
Music by Michael W. Smith, solo arrangement by Keith Wilbanks



Scan this code to read and subscribe to our **Weekly E-Pistle**.

## Prayer List

Family of Nancy Grib; Paul & Carrie (Julie Ridl's brother-in-law and sister); Melanie (Stacy Honson's sister); Bev Hawkes; Dan McGavin and Family of Carol Brown; Barbara Lindsay (Lewis Corbin's Bridge Partner); Rev. Marchiene Rienstra Family; Karen Clement (Friend of Debra Carr's); Ann and Jim Hopkins; Sally LaRowe (Linda Charvat's friend); Janice Campbell children & grandchildren (Pete Wehle's friends); James Higgins (Friend of Shane Anderson and Michael Tuleja), Joe Scarpone (Friend of Tom Fahlstrom); Fred Hamlin; John Kerr; Ruth Fahlstrom (daughter of Tom Fahlstrom); Stuart Family; Mary Westenbroek; Jerry Elpers and family (Beth Howley's Dad); Edie Plantinga (Nancy's Mom); Max Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo Cooley's brother)

## Birthdays

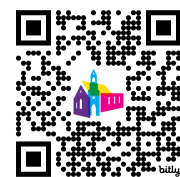
January 5: **Beverly Hawkes**  
January 6: **Louise Kenny**  
January 8: **Andrew Danos**  
January 10: **Doug Petersen, Tim Lemanski**

## Weekly Financial Stewardship Report

for December 29, 2024

Attendance: 80      Viewers: 179

Collection Plate/Mail:	<b>\$6,025.00</b>
Online Giving:	<b>\$1,899.89</b>
Total:	<b>\$7,924.89</b>



Scan this code to support us with an online gift. (The code will take you to our website: [douglasucc.org/giving](http://douglasucc.org/giving).)

Or give from your smartphone by texting any US\$ amount to **844-931-2849**.

## Thank you!

Your gifts sustain our mission of service.

[www.DouglasUCC.org](http://www.DouglasUCC.org)

## The First Nowell

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12

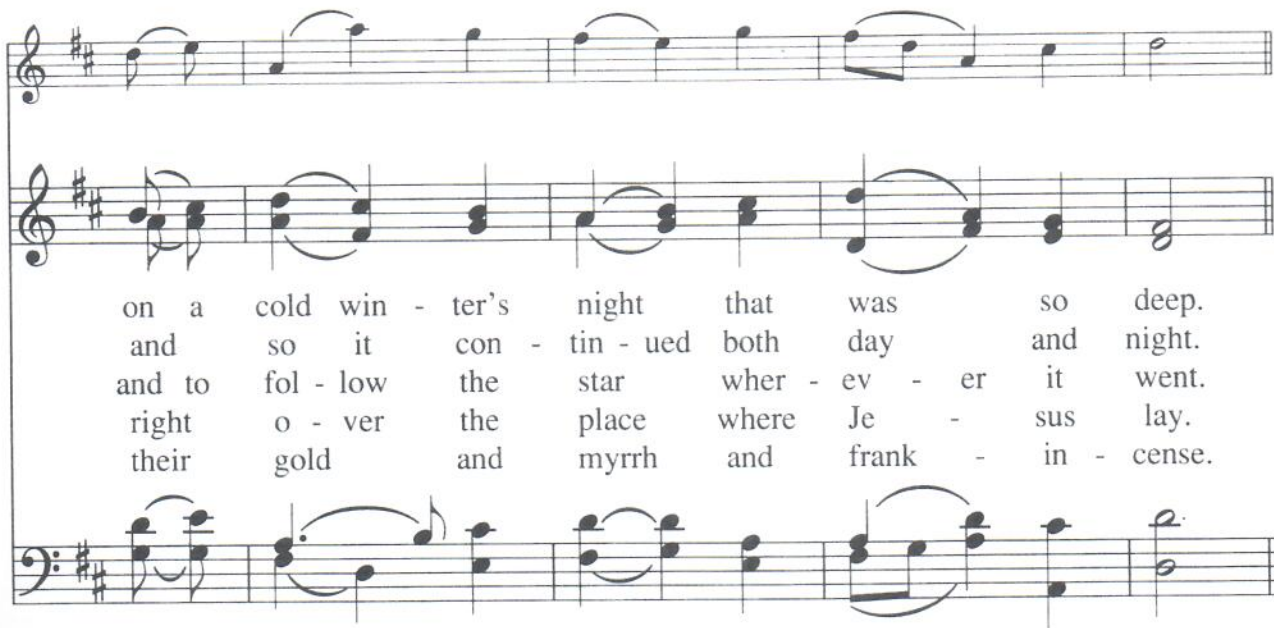
Traditional English carol; alt

Descant

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,  
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,  
 three sag - es came from coun - try far;  
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,  
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 And there it did both stop and stay,  
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,



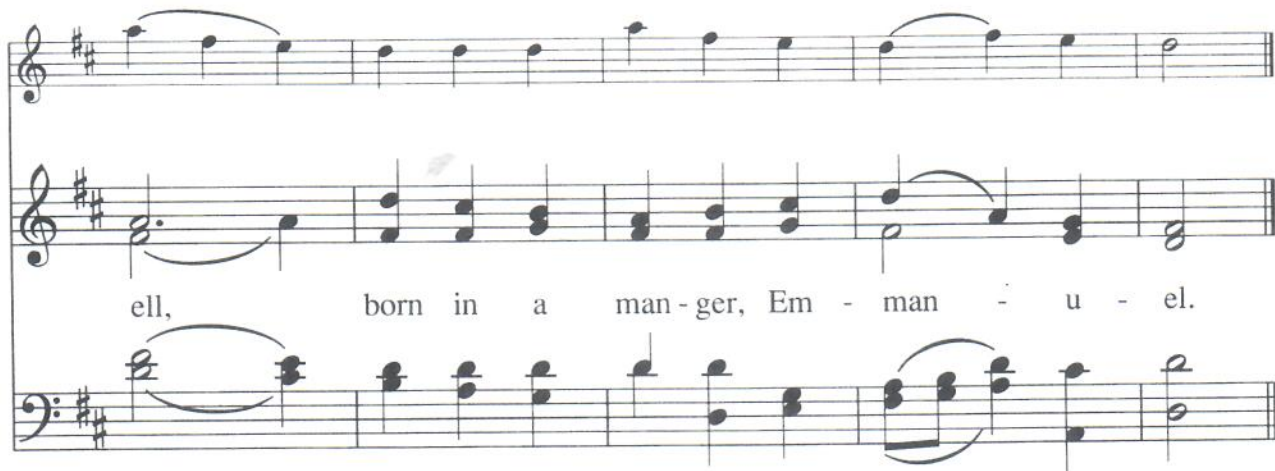
on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*



*Refrain*

Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -



ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual  
 Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

## Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

## Last time, end

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

## to Refrain

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.