

Welcome to Worship at McFarland United Church of Christ!

January 8, 2025 ☩ Contemplative Service

Opening Prayer, Psalm 139, 1-12 – from the Book of Common Prayer

Pray Responsively:

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *

but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? *

where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning *

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me *

and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *

and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day; *

darkness and light to you are both alike.

~*~

An Epiphany Meditation Inspired by Cynthia Bourgeault

Ten-Minute Silent Meditation followed by reflections

Laying on of Hands with Prayers for Healing

All are welcome to come sit or kneel at a healing station to offer and receive prayers for healing with anointing.

All others sing continuously:

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, When I call, answer me,

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, Come and listen to me.

~*~

Prayers for Ourselves and for the World

Leader:

I ask your prayers for ourselves and for the world

Response:

O God, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer

In unison:

Lord in the midst of Winter,

When the days are cold and wind can pierce

Remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short,

dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early

Remind us that in the darkness

Your light still shines.

What is Taizé?

The Taizé form of worship uses calming music, candlelight and silence to promote an atmosphere of peaceful, meditative worship.

Taizé originated during World War II, in the town of the same name in the Burgundy region of France. What began as an effort by a Christian brother and sister team to hide and protect those fleeing the war later developed into an ecumenical monastery devoted to a common life of service and great simplicity, and a world pilgrimage site.

Song is one of the most essential elements of worship. In the Taizé prayer service, words are sung over many times, gradually penetrating the whole being, uniting prayer and daily life. It becomes a way of listening to God.



Thanks so much for joining us this evening.

To receive our weekly electronic newsletter The Pulse or for a name tag, provide your name and/or email to one of our ushers or email your information to office@mcfarlanducc.org.



Scan me to donate! ❤️

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Our Servant and Leadership Team (SaLT): Moderator - Becky Cohen (becky@mcfarlanducc.org); Vice moderator - Donna Grossman; Treasurer - Kathy Schwenn; Clerk - Diane Mikelbank; At large members - Lynn Belleau, Walt Jackson, Colleen Krattiger, and Judy Taber

Healing Prayer Team: Cameron Macdonald Cameron1985@gmail.com, Lisa Ludwig, Martha Olsen, Trish Kalhagen, Tom Ludwig

Pianist: Bryan Sirchio

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“The Wine of Sweet Communion,” Ken Medema



January 8, 2025

6:30-7:30 pm

Healing prayer “is a process that involves the totality of our being – body, mind, emotion, spirit, and our social context – and that directs us toward becoming the person God is calling us to be at every stage of our living and our dying.”

-Tilda Norberg & Robert Weber

A prayer for Epiphany (Walter Brueggemann)

Pray Responsively:

**On Epiphany day,
we are still the people walking.**

We are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
**Beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss —
a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.**

We are — we could be — people of your light.

**So we pray for the light of your glorious presence
as we wait for your appearing;**

We pray for the light of your wondrous grace
as we exhaust our coping capacity;

**We pray for your gift of newness that
will override our weariness;**

We pray that we may see and know and hear and trust
in your good rule.

**That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact
your rule through the demands of this day.**

We submit our day to you with deep joy and high hope.

The Lord's Prayer

In Unison:

Our father who art 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever.

Amen.

~*~

Passing of the Peace of Christ

~*~

Communion

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts,
We lift them to the Lord

*Communion will be passed from person to person, saying:
"The Bread of Life, the Cup of Blessing"*

~*~

Post-Communion Prayer

In Unison:

**God of Love and Light, we give thanks once again for this spiritual
food and for all that this sacrament means to us.
Strengthen your Light within us so that we might truly be rays of
your Divine Light here on earth.
Grant us grace and courage to follow in the way of Jesus and to
shine more and more with the same Universal Light that brought the
magi to Bethlehem.
Amen.**