

*Advent 2020 “I Believe Even When ... Fill the Night with Music and Light”*  
**Welcome to Worship with Memorial United Methodist Church**

Fourth Sunday – Dec. 20, 2020, Worship Guide  
(On-line Worship Video available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sunday, [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org))

**We Gather to Worship God:** *“I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace”*

**Music to Center Ourselves:** *Impromptu on “Gloria”*

Debbie Hubbard

**Lighting the Advent Wreath with Prayer**

Praise Team

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of peace on earth. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when we are not sure that goodwill among us can be found, ignite the flame of peace within us, that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Help us face the pain of life and embrace the assurance that light is already here, and always coming. Amen.

*Now is the time to light four candles of your Advent wreath—the candle of Hope, the candle of Love, the candle of Joy, and the candle of Peace, where you are.*

**Praise Song: “Here I Am to Worship”** W&S 3177

Praise Team

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you’re my God. You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, O so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above. Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love’s sake became poor.

Words: Tim Hughes © 2005 Thankyou Music (PRS). CCLI #2960180

**We Share the Story of God**

**Sharing from the Prophet Isaiah 9:2-7**

Ken and Lorna Benson

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. ... A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1,6 from Common English Bible.

**Children’s Time to Shine: “This Little Light of Mine”**

“Grandma” Joy Jorgensen

**Sharing from the Gospel of John 1:1-18**

Ken and Lorna Benson

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light.

John 1:4-5 from Common English Bible.

**Sung Response: “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”** UMH 218

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849. Public Domain.

## We Respond to God

### Sung Response: “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” UMH 240

Hark, the herald angels sing, “glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Public Domain.

### Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org)

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

### Gift Presentation from Congregation to Pastor

Ted Brainard and Laurie de la Garza

### Offering Our Stillness, Prayers and The Lord’s Prayer

Please email prayer requests to [mumc@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:mumc@gladstonechurch.org) or call (906) 428-9311

## We Go, Blessed to Serve

### Sung Blessing: “Believe” (to the tune of “Give Thanks” TFWS 2036)

Praise Team

Believe, with a peaceful heart! Believe, and shine your light! Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all! And now, let the weak say, “I am strong;” let the poor say, “I am rich because of what our God has done for us.” Believe!

W&S (Worship & Song), TFWS (The Faith We Sing), UMH (United Methodist Hymnal), UMBOW (United Methodist Book of Worship).

## Christmas Eve and Day

- 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24, In-person in the Parking Lot with a brass band to light the Christ Candle.
- 6:00 p.m. Premiere of our pre-recorded Christmas Eve pageant featuring youth and children.
- 9:00 p.m. Premiere of our pre-recorded Christmas Eve worship, filling the night with music.
- 8:30 a.m. Dec. 25, Premiere of recorded portions of the 4:30 Christmas Eve gathering.