



## WELCOME !

Nursery care is available for ages 6 weeks-3 years.

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available from the ushers.

Hearing assist devices are available at the sound booth.

Thank you for supporting our ministries! Offering plates are available by the Sanctuary doors as you exit or scan this QR code to give securely online.



Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after worship.

\*Standing or sitting.

PRELUDE "Pastoral Symphony" G.F. HANDEL  
from *Messiah*

### GREETING & WELCOME

\*HYMN "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 1, 2, 4 UMH 221

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is telling a story in our lives. It's quite a story-

**All: full of the promises God makes and our struggles to trust; full of mystery and angels with surprising news; full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings.**

Come, hear the story pay attention to the angels' message in your heart in this place and time.

**Then join all creation in worshipping the God who tells it full of grace and truth; who comes in Jesus, the Word made flesh, and makes our story holy.**

HYMN SING "There's a Song in the Air" vs. 1, 2 UMH 249  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" UMH 229  
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" vs. 1, 3 UMH 251

CHILDREN'S TIME Jan Russell  
*After Children's Time, children are invited to Sunday School in 200.*

### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Wonder as I Wonder" JOHN JACOB NILES

SCRIPTURE Psalm 148 (UMH pg. 861); Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSVUE)  
The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Christmas: An End and a Beginning"  
Rev. Mary Ellen Nielsen

\*HYMN "Love Came Down at Christmas" UMH 242

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God\*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(\*Mother, Father, Creator, etc. - use the word that is most meaningful for you.)

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

\*HYMN "Joy to the World" UMH 246

### \*BLESSING

Alleluia! Our God is now here!

Go forth to spread the Good News wherever you go,  
sharing God's love and promise with all whom you meet.

Go into the world to find the lost,

**heal the broken,**

**feed the hungry,**

release the prisoner,

**rebuild the nations,**

**bring peace among people,**

**and make music in every heart.**

**Alleluia! Our God is now here!**

In the name of our God,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,

**we cry out with the angels in the heavens**

**and the shepherds in the fields:**

**Alleluia! Our God is now here! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE "Noël" LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

**Call to Worship:** posted on Christine Jerrett. <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>. Retrieved from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Christmas>

**Blessing:** Excerpt from "Miracle in the Manger", posted on the Society of Saint Andrew website. [http://www.endhunger.org/PDFs/2013/Advent\\_eBook\\_2013.pdf](http://www.endhunger.org/PDFs/2013/Advent_eBook_2013.pdf). Retrieved from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Christmas>



## Good Sam Happenings

You're in a GOOD place to ... connect, grow, worship ...



### Church Office and Building Closed

The church office and building will be closed this Thursday, January 1. Happy New Year!

### Pastors on Vacation

Please note that Pastor Max will be on vacation through January 2 and Pastor Jim will be out through January 11. Pastor Mary Ellen Nielsen will be on call for pastoral emergencies December 25-28 at 612-910-6690. Pastor Linda McCollough of Eden Prairie UMC will be on call December 29-January 2 at 612-978-2917.

### Welcome, Aldersgate!

This Tuesday, items from Aldersgate's building will be arriving here at Good Samaritan. Thanks to the volunteers who will be helping!

**Next Sunday, January 4**, we'll celebrate Epiphany and our first service as a merged congregation with Communion. A light continental brunch of mini-muffins and fruit will follow.

On **Sunday, January 11**, we'll have a service of baptismal remembrance followed by a pancake brunch for everyone (see over).

Our fellowship times will now be held in the newly renamed Aldersgate Hall to honor the history of both Aldersgate UMC of St. Louis Park and the original event of John Wesley's heart being "strangely warmed" in our United Methodist history. Join us!



### Pancake Brunch on Sunday, January 11

Join us after worship on Sunday, January 11, for a pancake brunch! We will serve buttermilk and gluten-free pancakes, pork and vegan sausage, hot regular and sugar-free syrup, orange juice, and regular and decaf coffee. A free-will offering will be taken, and any amount over expenses will be donated to the Missions Team. This will be a wonderful opportunity to chat with our new friends from Aldersgate and celebrate our merger!



### Upcoming Winter Course: Discovering Your Spirituality Type



Are you a Sage, Lover, Mystic, or Prophet? People have varying spiritual styles, which, when recognized, can bring forth richer spiritual experiences, deeper personal growth, and greater appreciation for others' religious beliefs. Pastor Jim will be leading this enlightening class starting in January. Class registration is now open through Tuesday, January 13.

To sign up, use the QR code, go to [tinyurl.com/GSDiscovering](https://tinyurl.com/GSDiscovering), sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex, or email Pastor Jim at [jim@good.org](mailto:jim@good.org). Childcare will be available if needed. Choose the timing that works best for you:



#### Two Sessions after Worship

Sundays, January 18 and February 1 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

#### or One Half-Day Workshop

Saturday, January 24 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.