

UNITE IN LOVE

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Here on the seventh day of Christmas,

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of hope and peace.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

**All: Here on the eve of a new year,
we are called to speak, for the world needs light.**

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

*Gathering Hymn #110

“Love Has Come”

Be The Church

You are invited to share a note with someone in your faith community who has served to point out good news and Jesus when they see it. Send a message of peace or a short blessing by text, email, or write out a note with pen and paper.

GROW IN FAITH

Prayer for Illumination

God of today and tomorrow,
We know
That your fingerprints are all over this world.
And we know
That those who dream cannot keep silent.
So today we pray,
Give us eyes to see you.
Give us courage to trust you.
And give us lips to speak of you in our midst.
Gratefully we pray,
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Reflection

“Those Who Dream...Will Not Keep Silent”

Hymn #148

“Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple”

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Join the Conversation - At the prompt, you will be invited to write prayers on 3 sticky notes.

1. Write something that you are grateful for—a piece of good news worthy of praise.
2. Write a dream you have for the world that we need to speak about.
3. Write one person or group of people that are speaking, but are not being heard.

Prayers of the People

Affirming Our Faith

One: We believe in telling the story—

**All: The story of a loving and merciful God,
Who will not let God’s people go;
The story of a baby who grew up and changed the world;
The story of our faith.**

One: We believe in speaking up—

**All: For our neighbors,
For the oppressed,
For the overlooked
And marginalized.**

One: We believe in speaking out—

**All: Against violence, Greed,
Abuse,
Fear,
Scarcity mindset,
And bigotry.**

One: We believe in passing the mic—

**All: So that we are not the only ones speaking,
So that we can lift up the voices of those around us,
So that we too might listen and learn.**

One: We believe in the good news of the gospel.

**All: We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves.
We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent.**

One: Speak to us, Holy God.

All: Speak through us, Holy God. May it be so, amen.

Hymn #136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Prayer & Blessing