

# WORSHIP GUIDE for JANUARY 2, 2022

## SETTING YOUR SPACE

Hi, Friends! I hope you can join in for our first worship service of the new year. We'll be kicking off a new series – a season of dwelling in our deep questions – and I'm asking for your help shaping it: What questions should we take up? What are things you wonder about, that you'd like your faith community to explore together? Send any ideas my way: [erika@fbcmac.org](mailto:erika@fbcmac.org). This first week, we'll look at a great story about asking questions, we'll hold onto the Christmas spirit a little bit longer, and we'll share in communion. Whether you join in person or from home, we appreciate your presence with this community. Thanks for being part of it all.

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude – Geoff Clayton, Pianist**

**Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor**

**Gathering Song: *Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child* (NC #136)**

**– Heidi Toth, Dave King, Geoff Clayton**

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope the Child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing,

“Glory, glory, glory,”  
let the heavens ring!

## **Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer by Sarah Dylan Breuer**

**- Dave King**

Loving Creator, we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

## **Children's Time - Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister**

### **Scripture: Genesis 32:22-29**

*In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yabbok River. After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, and he was completely alone.*

*And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled.*

*Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking." Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me." "What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. The other said, "Your name will no longer be 'Jacob,' or 'Heel-Grabber,' but 'Israel' - 'Overcomer of God' - because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed."*

*Then Jacob asked, "Now tell me your name, I beg you." The other said, "Why do you ask me my name?" and blessed Jacob there.*

### **Sermon: "Why Ask?" - Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**Response Song: *As with Gladness Those of Old* (NC # 159)**

**- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Geoff Clayton**

As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

**Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Erika Marksbury**

One: Gracious One, in your mercy...

**All: ...hear our prayer.**

**Communion**

**Litany**

One: Calling God, you have gathered us into this community.  
A place has been made for us.

**All: Let what we say and do here  
be real for us and honest to you.**

One: Gracious God, you have set a table before us.  
To all who would come, you offer a feast.

**All: You hold out bread of life for all who hunger.  
You hold out a cup of compassion for a broken world.**

One: We cannot take this bread  
and forget those who are hungry.  
We cannot drink this cup  
and forget those who thirst.

**All: As we feast, make our hearts restless;  
stir in us a desire for justice,  
so that we will not be full until all are fed.**

**Communion Music: *Come to the Table & Breathe (Blue Book)*  
- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Geoff Clayton**

Come to the table of mercy  
prepared with the wine and the bread;  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation,  
receive from God's loving hand;  
Eat of the bread of salvation,  
drink of the love of the Lamb.

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This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe:  
Your holy presence living in me.  
This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread:  
Your very word spoken to me.

And I, I'm desp'rate for You.  
And I, I'm lost without You.

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe:  
Your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread:  
Your very word spoken to me.

And I, I'm desp'rate for You.  
And I, I'm lost without You.  
And I, I'm desp'rate for You.  
And I, I'm lost without You.

I'm lost without You. I'm lost without You. I'm lost without You.

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe.

### **Prayer After Communion**

Please join me in the prayer on the screen:

O God, make of us

some nourishment for these starved times,

some food for our brothers and sisters

who are hungry for gladness and hope,

that, being bread for them,

we may also be fed and be full. Amen.

### **Closing Words**

#### **Going Forth Song: *Draw the Circle Wide***

**- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Geoff Clayton**

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone; we'll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side...

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone; we'll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

### **Benediction**

One: Friends, ... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. Amen.

## Postlude - Geoff Clayton

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