

welcome to the
First Baptist Church
of McMinnville, Oregon

*Together we respond to the call of the Spirit and the teachings of Jesus
to learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all.*

Prelude - Geoff Clayton

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Gathering Song: *The First Noel*

The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel Noel Noel Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went
Noel Noel Noel Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay
Noel Noel Noel Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

Stations for Reflection & Conversation:
Wonder; Gratitude; Incarnation

Prayers of Joy & Concern

Special Music: *Jesus Christ is Born* - Heidi Toth & Sean P. Williams

(service order continues on reverse side)



Thanks to Sean P. Williams for leading our singing today.

Merry Christmas!
December 25, 2022

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the 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

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song, which now the angels sing

Benediction

Postlude



Our Statement of Welcome & Affirmation

The First Baptist Church of McMinnville is a creative, thoughtful, inclusive American Baptist congregation. Following the example of Jesus, the urging of the Spirit, the call of God, the challenge of the prophets, the legacy of those who have gone before us, and the insistence of our own consciences, we affirm the dignity and worth of all creation. As we proclaim and work toward the reign of justice and peace, we welcome all people. We rejoice in our diversity and seek to understand our differences as ways of more fully encountering the beauty and complexity of the image of God. We commit to creating a community where people of all ages, abilities, genders, gender expressions, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, nationalities, experiences, backgrounds, and situations are celebrated as full participants, as together we strive to be faithful followers and proclaimers of Good News.

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