



**Central United Methodist Church  
of Colorado Springs**

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*“A Place to Begin...Belong...Become”*

**THE CENTRAL FAMILY OF FAITH  
GATHERED IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION**  
Rev. Debra Wacker

**Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:00 am**



**Order of Worship**

(Please settle into a posture of worship)

\*Stand as you wish

**WE GATHER**

**Countdown to Opportunities** Rev. Judy  
**Prelude** *“Love Came Down”* arr. Hayes Jo Jackson  
**Reading of Psalm 29** Rev. Deb and Rev. Judy  
**Welcome** Rev. Deb  
**Choral Introit** Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship** (Gen. 1:1-5) Rev. Judy

Leader: In the beginning, God...  
People: **Swept over waters, spoke light into existence, created day and night, and called it good.**  
Leader: As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...  
People: **Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation, to be loved and tended by God.**  
Leader: As we lost our way, God...  
People: **Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.**  
Leader: On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized, God...  
People: **Declared, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you, I am well pleased.”**  
Leader: Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters, remembering our baptism in which God...  
People: **Claims us as beloved children, the family of God.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries.*

**Opening Hymn** *“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”* UMH #152  
(Invite Children to come up front on the last verse of Hymn)

**Children’s Message** Rev. Judy  
(Bible Storytime follows Children’s Message for Children K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Follow Melissa.)

**PREPARATION TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture:** Acts 19: 1-7 Rev. Judy

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *“And There Was Morning”* Rev. Deb

**Baptismal Prayer** Rev. Deb  
**Communion** Rev. Deb and Rev. Judy

## Prayer of Confession/Words of Assurance (Unison)

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Deb & Rev. Judy

Leader: It is a Holy day indeed...The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You told us when we pass through the waters...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit...the prayer Jesus taught us:

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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**

## Sharing the Meal

### Prayer After Communion

Rev. Deb

### WE RESPOND

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Deb

### Song of Prayer

*"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

UMH #334

### Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Deb

### Choral Response

Chancel Choir

## Offering

\*Offertory

*"The First Noel"* arr. Labenske

Rev. Deb

\*Doxology

*"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Jo Jackson

UMH #95

**Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow  
praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above,  
ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## WE GO FORTH

### Closing Hymn

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

UMH #139

### Benediction

Rev. Deb

### Choral Closing

Chancel Choir

### Postlude

*"O Zion, Haste"* Walch

Jo Jackson

## THE CHURCH WE SERVE

- Traveling mercies for Krystal DeGraffe and Ace Heyns as they travel to visit family in Georgia this Christmas.
- Prayers for Sara and Mike Simon and her family. Aunt Ruth and her caretakers as recovery from her stroke becomes difficult.
- Angie McClelland's sister Dawn had surgery on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> to remove cancer from her ankle.
- Charlie Carson, as he comes home.
- Bob Adams and his health issues.
- Jack Whitney, as he prepares for surgery on a broken hip.
- Sandy, Josephine Yacoub's sister-in-law, is recovering from Bell's Palsy at 27 years.
- Our "WAVES", our country and its leaders.

**Serving in mission:** Kutela Katembo: Missionary in Angola, Africa

**Our World:** The people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza

**PRESENCE:** Sanctuary 69, Nursery 2, Fellowship Hall 5, Online 10, **Total: 86**

| GIFTS: | Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> | Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> | Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> | Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> | Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|        | \$19,569.00          | \$2920.00            | \$3547.00            | \$2435.00            | \$4735.00            |

**SERVICE:** Thank you to Judy Day for decorating our church with Poinsettias this Christmas, they were beautiful!

Thank you to all who made another person smile during our holiday celebrations!

## **CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES**

### **JANUARY MISSION FOCUS**

#### ***Building a Grandmother's House***

##### **In memory of Trae Gilbert-DeGraffe**

During December, we gave almost \$2400 toward the \$3000 needed for our church to finance the building of a "Grandmother's House" in Kenya. Grandmothers who are extremely poor "inherit" their grandchildren when the parents die of AIDS. They and the children struggle in many ways, living in rundown shacks.

The Maua Methodist Hospital organizes and oversees the building of small homes (\$3000 each), and when completed, each new home is dedicated in the name of the church that provided the funding or to a person that the church selects.

Our December and January gifts will finance the building of a Grandmother's House, and our Missions Committee is hoping to dedicate the house in the name of Trae Gilbert-DeGraffe, our young member who died on November 8, 2023, the grandson of Bob and Angie Edwards.

If you can help, please make checks payable to CUMC, designated "Grandmother's House," or drop coins into the loose change jug on Sundays.

#### **Food Gifts in January**

##### **Hot Soup on a Cold Day**

Hungry families in Colorado Springs will appreciate some soup or other meal items as the winds blow in January. Hundreds of families come to Mercy's Gate each month for food and other assistance, and we can offer them the warmth of God's love. Please bring soup or any non-perishable food items to the grocery cart in the church entry area any time during January. Mmm, good!

#### **Can You Help – Take Down Decorations**

As we close out our holiday season, we're asking for assistance in breaking down and packing away our Christmas decorations. Anyone interested in assisting, please feel free to stay after service.

## **"What Christians Believe"**

Karen Hobson leads a Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study at 11:15 am (during the Sunday School hour) in Classroom 1 off of Fellowship Hall. Join this great class for fellowship and dynamic conversations.

### **New Study on Tuesday Mornings with Judy Owsley**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Using a book by Adam Hamilton, Rev. Judy will lead a study of Christianity's best known prayer. We will grow to understand and more fully appreciate the meaning and the power of the words by exploring each rich line and the Biblical context.

YOU ARE INVITED to join the friendly discussions on Tuesday mornings, 9:30-10:30, beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>. Books (\$14) are available in the office or at the first class.

YOU are invited to join.

At the church or on Zoom  
Classroom 1 off of Fellowship Hall

### **"Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes"**

Rev. Deb Wacker will be leading resuming this Bible Study. Wednesday at 10:00 am in the conference room and Thursday evening from 5:30 – 7:00 pm on zoom only. We'll take a new look at the bible stories we learned as kids.

Never too late to join.

Books (\$14) are in the office.