



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

**11 A.M. | CENTENNIAL HALL**

# Preparing for Worship

Today's worship is meant to be interactive, expressive and intergenerational. We will focus our time around eating and communing together. Your tables have paper placemats on which you can draw, color or journal. Snacks on the tables are for anyone who has the munchies before breakfast. Today we welcome the Harmony, Hope & Healing Ensemble. Harmony, Hope & Healing supports women, men and children as they heal from traumas associated with homelessness, incarceration, addiction, and isolation. The organization provides on-site music classes and workshops in shelters, residential programs, drug treatment centers, community centers and Cook County Jail. Alumni and participants from the Harmony, Hope & Healing programs sites as well as volunteers make up the HHH Ensemble.

\*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

**Welcome**

Lydia Mulkey

## Gathering as God's People

### **\*Call to Worship**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

**And the glory of our God has risen upon us.**

God has pity on the weak and needy;

**God redeems their life from oppression and violence.**

Precious in God's sight are the widows, widowers, and orphans of war;

**Precious in God's sight are the addicted and the hurting.**

Precious in God's sight are the abused and neglected;

**Precious in God's sight are the poor and desperate.**

Precious in God's sight are all who sit on the margins;

**Precious in God's sight are all who long for justice.**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

**And the glory of our God has risen upon us all.**

### **\*Carol O Come All Ye Faithful**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.**

**Come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,**

**O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Prayer of Invocation**

## Listening for God's Word to Us

**Prayer For Peace by David Haas**

Harmony, Hope & Healing Ensemble

**Testimony** from a member of Harmony, Hope & Healing

## **Christmas Carol Medley**

### ***The First Nowell***

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay a keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

### ***Angels We Have Heard On High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

### ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***

*Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

**Silence**

Lydia Mulkey

We will spend one minute in silence to rest our bodies and our voices as best as we are able. You are invited to reflect on the reading we heard and the carols we have sung today.

**Sharing**

For the next five minutes, you are invited to share at your tables a word or a story that comes to your mind as you reflect on the reading and on the story of Jesus' birth. What do you notice? What questions did the reading bring up?

***Jesus, What A Wonderful Child***

Harmony, Hope &amp; Healing Ensemble

**Breakfast Instructions & Blessing**

Alicia Reese

**Sharing a Meal****Prayer of Dedication**

Lydia Mulkey

**Offering*****Offertory****One Day* by Matisyahu

Harmony, Hope &amp; Healing Ensemble

**Prayers of Intercession**

Alicia Reese and Lydia Mulkey

*Our joys and concerns will be offered aloud this morning, as guided by the ministers. If you would like to record a prayer joy or concern on a pink card, for pastoral prayer later this week, please fill out a card and place it in the prayer basket before you leave.*

**Clean-Up Instructions**

Alicia Reese

**Closing Carol: *Joy to the World***

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Christ room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nation prove  
the glories of God's righteousness  
and wonders of God's love, and wonders of God's love,  
and wonders, wonders of God's love.**

**Benediction**

Lydia Mulkey

**Sung Charge***People Get Ready*

Harmony, Hope &amp; Healing Ensemble