

## Star maker

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers which you have ordained, the moon and the stars that you have established; What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?... Yet, Thy dost crown us with Thy glory and honor. ” — Psalm 8:3

This Advent settle yourself below the stars or at least imagine yourself there and consider your place. Be nestled below the arch of the sky strung with stars and the deepness of dark. Get a good glimpse of the Holy.

During Advent ponder what an advent is. Advent, *adventus* simply said, means something is coming. In this case, it is not the advent of the new iPhone or the trendiest fashion. It is the chance for hope, peace, joy and love to break open. We will always think, wonder and wait. Yet, we have a God who wonders with us as far and as deep and as high as we wander and yet, sees our place of importance regardless of our wavering. Way before we got to our wondering, the power of tender kindness and deep compassion swooped, held humanity fast and cradled us all into the infinite bright lights who would somehow become the descendants Abraham dreamed for one ancient starry night. Eugene Peterson describes this as living into life. “Live into this,” he urges. “This is what it looks like to be human in this God-made and God-ruled world; this is what is involved in becoming and maturing as a human being. We don't have to fit into pre-fabricated moral and mental or religious boxes before we are admitted into the company of God. We are taken seriously just as we are and given place in his story — for it is, after all, God's story.”

God's unfolding narrative is as old as those starry skies. We sometimes have an opportunity to witness to the Creator's capacity to cast rays on most anyone near the Light of the world. In enters Charles Dickens, an activist who illuminated social reform by reaching a class of prosperous people who at the time viewed poverty as a faulty flaw. For Charles it was not the stillness nor the starry night that caused him to

see God, but the light of strong human faces hanging with the age-old shadows of want and waste of potential.

While strolling the dark streets of London for 15 to 20 miles nightly, Dickens was concerned with plummeting book sales and a fifth child on the way. It's thought that scenes of *A Christmas Carol* came alive here, among the poorest of the poor. The streets filled with ragged people were real to Dickens as was the injustice. After an 1843 speech, Dickens threw away the idea of using politically charged pamphlets to call for social reform, instead using his imagination. *A Christmas Carol* was printed and intentionally sold where people of means bought hundreds of copies. “Ragged Schools” and a safe house for women opened, Urania Cottage saved women from the streets and child the 1844 Factories Act decreed children 9 to 13 years old would have their work days reduced to 9 hours, 6 days a week. “This was regarded as a humane reform.”

*A Christmas Carol* lights stages even today, shedding light in new places and spotlighting hearts that break open to a gentler world rewritten with hope, peace, joy and love is the advent of Christmas and uniquely God's. The birth and life of Jesus illuminates the first Advent and as Dickens is quoted, “It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.” A child who is the founder of humanity, of those mammoth light shows across a night sky and of bold, compassionate ways that shape the very lives we live and pray. “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers which you have ordained, the moon and the stars that you have established; What are human beings that you are mindful of them? It's Advent.” Amen. — JJ

**Prayer at WBLUMC:** One of the ways our church helps to nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams. **The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer of this team, please write it on a prayer request card, or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728, [ljjacot@q.com](mailto:ljjacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts email requests via a call or email to a pastor or the email prayer chain lead, Ronda Nelson, at [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com). **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. Call Eva Shipley if you would like to request a prayer at 651-429-3570.

### STAFF

**Bill Eaves**, Senior Pastor  
[bill.eaves@wblumc.org](mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org),  
763-355-7825 mobile  
**Brooke Heerwald Steiner**, Associate Pastor  
**John McBride**, Associate Pastor

**Joan Hartman**, Director of Children  
& Family Ministries  
**Linnea Uhler**, Director of Youth Ministries  
**Peteria Cochran Routt**, Director of  
Traditional Music  
**John Koziol, Jr.** Director of Music  
**Matthew Goinz**, Chancel Choir Director

**Patricia Kytola**, Director of Operations  
**Lauri Hopple**, Administrative Assistant  
**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social Media  
**Tom Leiser**, Treasurer  
**Harry Jones**, Financial Secretary  
**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | [WBLUMC.ORG](http://WBLUMC.ORG)

# White Bear Lake UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

## Second Sunday in Advent

### WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“There is never enough time to do or say all the things that we would wish. The thing is to try to do as much as you can in the time that you have.”

~ The Ghost of Christmas Present, in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

“One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once.

The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul.”

~ Michelle Blake

### PRELUDE

“A Star Shone Bright”

words F. Richard Garland

Music English Folk Melody  
Harmonization by Deal McIntyre

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

P. Simon

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

“Zion Hört die Wächter Singen ”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Chancel Choir | From *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 140*

### +OPENING WORDS (*responsively*)

We come together today to hear the voice of God:

**the voice of wisdom instructing us,**

the voice of justice inspiring us,

**the voice of hope encouraging us,**

the voice of love calling us home.

**May we have ears to hear and hearts open to follow. Amen.**

### +OPENING HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

(see back page of insert)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT PRAYER *(In unison)*

**Loving God, in this Advent season,  
we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

[illegible]

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
*After the message, children and youth through 8th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.*

ANTHEM	“Let All Mortal Flesh”	Picardy
	Chancel Choir and Bells   Sophie Amelkin, guest director	17th Century French Tune

MORNING PRAYER

Arr. John Ferguson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:39-55 Reader: Jan Morey

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Leader:* For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us. **All: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE                      Redemption of Scrooge: The Life of Christmas Present                      Pastor John McBride  
*At this time, all youth in grades 10-12 are invited for conversation in the youth room outside the sanctuary.*

+HYMN	“Lo, How a Rose is Blooming”	No. 216
-------	------------------------------	---------

CONNECTION CARDS                      “Let Our Gladness Have No End”                      Bohemian, 15th Century  
 Setting by Wayne Kerr  
*Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING	“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland” (Savior of the Nations Come)	J.S. Bach
----------	--	-----------

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CLOSING HYMN	“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Stanzas 1,2 & 4	No. 213
---------------	--	---------

+BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE                      “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”                      Wachet Auf  
Setting by Paul Manz

**In memoriam:** Former longtime WBLUMC member John Pendergrass, 92, died Thursday, Dec. 12, in Alabama. He is survived by children Nancy, Judy and Jay, and wife Kay. He is preceded in death by first wife Dolly.



# Advent Sundays Sermon Series

**Transforming our *Bah! Humbug!* world into one of peace, love, joy and hope this Advent.  
We hope you can join us for the remaining two weeks of Advent!**

**Dec. 17** — Lessons & Carols with Peter Mayer    **Dec. 24** — The Hope of Christmas Future

# Adult Faith Advent Class

**6:30-8pm Mondays through Dec. 18 — Moved to Fellowship Hall for the remaining classes.**  
Discover the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. Rediscover and reinvigorate your faith this season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith.

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

# Christmas Eve Worship



## Sunday, Dec. 24, 2018

**10am:** Worship unplugged — A simple service with carol-singing accompanied by piano and guitar.

**3pm:** Family worship will be a shorter service of carols and visuals for our most wiggly and energetic friends.

**5pm:** A service of carols led by the music team.

**10pm:** A traditional service of carols and candle-lighting featuring the choir.

## New Year's Eve worship

We'll have one service at 10am on **Sunday, Dec. 31.**

Featuring the children's storybook *The Cloud Spinner* by Michael Catchpool, our morning message will talk about how we can make 2018 a year of healing and hope.

## Prayers for the season

At WBLUMC we hope to provide nourishment for the hungers of life by praying and caring for each other all year. If you would like to ask for prayer especially during the holiday season, please write your request on a yellow prayer card (found in the pews). If you would like a pastoral conversation or visit, please contact the church office at 651-429-9026.



**Donations of non-perishable food for the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf are encouraged at all four of our Christmas Eve services. We'll also take a special Christmas offering to support the programs and resources at the food shelf.**



'Tis the season to gather & celebrate!

# Lessons & Carols

WBLUMC INVITES  
YOU TO A SPECIAL  
MUSICAL EVENT

Sunday,  
Dec. 17

Peter Mayer, nationally known folk singer & songwriter, will perform music focused on Advent, Solstice and New Year. He'll join the Chancel Choir at the 9am service and the Children's Choir at the 10:45am service.

All are welcome, please bring a guest.



## **Sunday, Dec. 10:**

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery

10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall  
Individual prayer, prayer room

10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

11:30am-1pm—10:45 worship meeting, room 200

## **Monday, Dec. 11**

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206

3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary

6:30-8pm—Redemption of Scrooge class, room 200

## **Tuesday, Dec. 12**

10am—UMW Dorcas Circle staff brunch, room 200

1-3:30pm—UMW Sarah Circle, offsite meeting

6pm—Yoga Devotion, Fellowship Hall

6:30pm—Trustees meeting, 107

7-8:30pm—Finance committee meeting, room 200

7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations committee, room 206

## **Wednesday, Dec. 13**

6-6:30pm—Children's Choir, room 205

6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary

6:30pm—Children & Youth activities

7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

## **Thursday, Dec. 14**

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library

10am-3pm—The Gathering

10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107

1-3pm—Book Club (outside group), library

7-8:30pm—BeFriends Christmas party, offsite

## **Saturday, Dec. 16**

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 200

10am—Women's Breakfast group, room 200

## **Sunday, Dec. 17: Lessons & Carols**

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery

10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall  
Individual prayer, prayer room

10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery



## **Bookmark update**

Thank you to all who bought bookmarks at Faith in Action's third annual sale, which raised nearly \$500. That allows WBLUMC's Faith In Action team to fund three first-grade classes at next spring's book fair at Willow Lane Elementary. Thanks to each of you for supporting this program that encourages young children to read and develop a love of books.

## **ASP 2018**

Appalachia Service Project will be **July 21-29** in Kentucky. Students completing grades 9-12 and college students are invited to serve. Register at [wblumc.org/ministries/youth](http://wblumc.org/ministries/youth). Stay tuned for information about the first meeting at the end of January.

## **Stories, Songs & Sparkles**

Pre-K through fifth-graders will meet in the kids' theater downstairs for songs, stories of the Nativity, and sparkly ornament crafts for 9am Sunday school through Dec. 17.

## **December break**

Remember, there will be no Wednesday night activities for children and youth — including Children's Choir — on Dec. 20 and 27, resuming on Jan. 3. Also, after a break on Sundays Dec. 24 and 31, Sunday school will return on Jan. 7.

## **Pledge card reminder**

If you missed Pledge Day, you can still turn in your card. You'll find them in your pew or on the welcome table. We use the card to help track giving, so we need yours even if you've already pledged online. Thank you for your generous commitment so we can continue to provide nourishment for the hungers of life.

## **Winter welcome**

The urns that welcome you at the church's east entrance are given in gratitude for the gifts of the WBLUMC staff. You encourage our souls and give your gifts all year long. Thank you for your dedication.

## **42nd Wild Game dinner**

The 2018 Men's Club Wild Game Dinner will be **Monday, Jan. 15**. Join us for delicious and interesting dishes prepared by WBLUMC members. The event will start at 6pm with appetizers, followed by the main dishes and speaker Chris Niskanen, DNR communications director. Chris was previously the outdoor writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and published articles for numerous other outdoors publications and has published two outdoors-related books. Chris also organizes fishing river trips in Alaska, which he'll talk about in addition to current conservation issues.

The dinner depends on the donations of fish and game from our members and friends. There will be sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall by early December for fish and game donations and attendance at this fun event. Please contact Paul Dickson, Al Rausch or Jeff Olson if you have any questions.