

SILVER FALLS



UNITED CHURCH

Sunday Service
December 20, 2009

Silver Falls United Church

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Minister: Rev. Angela Cory, BA M.Div

Director of Music: Ann McAllister, B. Mus, B.Ed

Duty Team December: Sharon Maguire, Donna Melanson,
Joan Hickie, Corinne Carpenter

Congregational Responses are in **Bold** print.

** Please stand if able.*

Personal Prayer of Preparation

Teach us to sing your praise, O God. Teach us to sing with notes formed by hopes and acts of justice. Teach us to sing with harmonies shaped by mercy's wide embrace. Teach us to sing Mary's song of birth and rebirth for all creation in Jesus Christ. Amen

Organ Prelude

Introit Sing Out vs 1

Come, O God of all the earth; Come to us O Righteous One,
Come and bring our love to birth; in the glory of your Son.

Chorus:

**Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries, dance to the life around you.**

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Teach us to sing your praise, O God.

All: Teach us to sing with notes formed by hopes and acts of justice. Teach

One: Teach us to sing with harmonies shaped by mercy's wide embrace

All: **May all the earth join the chorus and dance to your beating heart. Amen**

Lighting the Advent Candle –Advent IV

See Advent Candle Liturgy

Opening Hymn Angels, From the Realms of Glory VU 36

Call To Confession

One: In the hurry and anxiety of Christmas, let us prepare to let God go with us, encouraging us and bringing us peace. Let us pray

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Vulnerable God when we gaze upon you in the starry glow of the nativity scene we sometimes neglect to see your human face behind the wire of confining fences. In our busyness we may pass you by on the street corners, in the office, the coffee shop—unable to hear your voice. We confess that in preparing for Christmas there are times we forget to make room for the

Christ who is with us in the hungry, the lonely, the needy, the afraid.

Open our eyes to see you in our everyday lives.

Open our ears to hear your cries for peace and justice.

Open our hands to reach out in compassion.

Open our hearts to the possibilities of your love working in us and through us.

Words of Assurance

One: May God's ever abiding presence kindle the embers of sacred care and compassion deep within us as we move to the rhythm of hopeful joy and wonder.

All: **Thanks be to God! Amen**

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?

Where are you Christmas
 Why can't I find you
 Why have you gone away
 Where is the laughter
 You used to bring me
 Why can't I hear music play

My world is changing
 I'm rearranging
 Does that mean Christmas
 changes too

Where are you Christmas
 Do you remember
 The one you used to know
 I'm not the same one
 See what the times done

Is that why you have let me go

Christmas is here everywhere , oh
 Christmas is here if you care , oh

If there is love in your
 heart and your mind
 You will feel like Christmas all the time

I feel you Christmas
 I know I've found you
 You never fade away
 The joy of Christmas
 stays here in silence
 Fills each and every heart with love

Where are you Christmas
 Fills your heart with love.

Introit for the Word

One: Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
 in the meditation of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the
 faithfulness of our lives, may your kingdom be known. Amen

Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Micah 5: 2-5

Reader: These are our sacred stories

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 80 Part One VU 794

Epistle: Hebrews 10: 5-10
 Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-45
 Reader: Glory be to you, O God

Ministry of Music African Noel - by P. Liebergen

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession & Thanksgiving

Lord, listen to your children praying,
 Lord, send your Spirit in this place,
 Lord, listen to your children praying,
 Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

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, the power and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen**

Offertory Invitation

One: Today we are invited to make our offering of our gifts in praise and thanksgiving for the grace shown to us by God. Let us receive our morning offering.

Receiving our Offerings and Par Cards

Offertory Hymn It Came Upon a Midnight Clear **VU 44**

Dedication of Offering **VU 55 (vs 4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
 Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

***Offertory Prayer** (one)

One: We offer this day all that we are and all that we will be. (*slowly lift your hands*)

We receive God's abundance born in Jesus, God's child. (*bring hands to chest*)

We give back to God as we see Christ in all God's children (*raise hands again*)

Communion Hymn All Poor Ones and Humble **VU 68**

Communion

One: And so may the peace of the Christ Child be with you now and always.

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them before God.

One: Pour out your souls

All: It is a good thing to offer our adoration and praise.

(passing of the peace)

Invitation

One: Friends, welcome to this still, sacred point within a turning, yearning world, wherein bread is broken for the gifts of compassion and wine poured for the healing of all.

An instant in time, like all fleeting moments, yet it does remain pregnant with beauty, possibility and renewed hope.

For in this happy dance of the common with the extraordinary, earth with heaven and of humanity with the Divine, the joy and mystery of Christmas is given, not just to behold, but to live out with gratitude, love and passion.

Prayer (responsively)

One: Adoration and praise we bring, O God. In the gift of the Christ Child we receive grace upon grace, and truth upon truth for the sake of renewed hearts and a transformed world.

All: Bless us in the breaking of bread and inspire us through the pouring of wine.

One: May you honor our desire to be people of Spirit, people of the Way, people known as Christ's and of God's timeless gift of unconditional love to the world.

Amen

Prayers after Communion (unison)

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn Once in Royal David's City VU 62

Commissioning and Benediction

One: Blessed is she who believed what was spoken to her by God would be fulfilled.

All: Blessed are we, bearers of God's promise, moving to the beat of God's heart.

Choral Blessing

Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart
Somewhere deep inside you is where Christmas
really starts

So give your heart to Jesus, you'll discover when you
do

That it's Christmas, really Christmas, for you.

Organ Postlude

If you are a visitor with us, we give you **special welcome** in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. If you are a regular worshipper, do you know the person in front of you, or even beside you? If not, why not introduce yourself?

Today's Service and Bulletin are dedicated in loving memory of David Janes, Dora and John Steele and Clem and Teresa Janes by Diane and girls.

In loving memory of Rev. R.L. and Mrs Roach and Mr and Mrs Allen V. Bustin by Ethel and Ken Roach

Scripture for Sunday, December 27th – **Barb Mahaffy**

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3: 12-17

Luke 2: 41-52

Greeter for December 27th : **Pam Carter & Dawn Steeves**

Thank you goes out to last weeks

Readers & Greeters for all your help!!

Prayer Corner *This information is given so that you may
“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”
(Rom. 12:15) Please pray for them.*

*Shirley Whitebone, Tashia Phillips, Marion Stackhouse
& John Kilpatrick*

CHURCH & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The U.C.W. still have **pins and recipe cards** for sale if anyone is interested in purchasing one.

Silver Falls will be holding a **Potluck Social Hour** after the service today. Hope everyone is able to stay. See you in the CE Hall!

The **Unified Board** is looking for **new board members** for the 2010 year. If anyone is interested in serving on this board or would like more information, please see Rosemary Day for details.

Christmas Eve Service being held **Thursday, December 24th at 7:00pm.**
All friends and family welcome!!

To all Committee Chairs—If you have not submitted your budget requests for 2010, please do so asap. Please submit to office and remember to be good stewards of our finances. Thanks a bunch!

We are looking to add **email addresses** to our office computer system. If you have an email address could you please submit it to the office by calling Tammy at 696-1410 or email her at **silverfalls@nb.aibn.com**, so that she can add it to the system. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested in becoming a Junior Youth Group Leader?? We're looking for someone to take on the role in leading a Junior Youth Group, grades 5-8. If you're interested in finding out more information, please see Andrew & Victoria Cory or call the office at 696-1410.

Red Head United Church is having a **Candle Light Service**, Sunday Dec. 20th at 7:00 PM -- All are welcome

L'Arche Saint John will be holding its **5th Annual Epiphany Concert** at Trinity Church, 115 Charlotte Street on Sunday January 3rd at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door or by calling L'Arche Saint John at 672-6504

Handel's Messiah

Paul Bustin performs in Handel's Messiah at Trinity Anglican Church, Dec. 21, 7:30pm. Hear the full masterwork with the Symphony Chorus and Orchestra. Advanced tickets are \$30 regular, \$25 senior/student. To reserve tickets, call Marje Harrison at 832-3033 or the church office at 693-8558.

*May your holidays be happy days
Filled with love and laughter
And may each day bring joy your way
In the year that follows after*