

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP FRIDAY, DEC 24, 7:00 PM. Come hear the scriptures, carols and special music that tell us the story of Jesus' birth in a family-friendly service with communion (*individual pre-packaged elements*), candlelight and glow sticks! In person & online. (*Masks are requested for this service, regardless of vaccine status.*)



SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DEC 26, 9:30 AM. There will be no in-person worship on Dec. 26. Stay home, have that extra cup of coffee and join us for ONLINE WORSHIP. Be sure to use the comments on Facebook to wish one another a Merry Christmas, and to share joys & concerns. www.polkcitiumc.org/online-worship or www.facebook.com/polkcitiumc



CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING This year's Christmas offering will support the ministry of Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines which provides shelter and services for homeless families with children. Their mission is to help homeless families with children obtain permanent housing and achieve economic self-sufficiency. (*Designate "Christmas Mission" in your giving, Dec. 19 – 31*)



ALPHA IS COMING Make plans to join our Alpha program on **Wednesdays starting January 5th!** Great small group opportunity exploring faith in an open and informal environment. Watch a short preview video after worship on Dec. 19 or Jan. 2! Sign up on the entryway board or at www.polkcitiumc.org/grow



WELCOME GUESTS! If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome table to fill out a Connect Card and pick up a Welcome Bag!

#LOVELIKEJESUS TUMBLERS can be purchased for \$10 at the Welcome Table (*each purchase covers the cost of a free tumbler for first-time guests*)



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 21, 2021



CONTACT US: Melody Webb, Pastor: melody.webb@polkcitiumc.org or 314.630.0768
Lauren Wilken, Children & Youth Director: lauren.wilken@polkcitiumc.org

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polkcitiumc.org | [Facebook.com/polkcitiumc](https://www.facebook.com/polkcitiumc)

PRELUDE "Welcome to Our World" Angela Cupp & Scott Mead

Masks are requested for this service, regardless of vaccine status

WELCOMING PRAYER Pastor Melody Webb

Please record your presence in the Facebook comments ([facebook.com/polkcityumc](https://www.facebook.com/polkcityumc)) or attendance card (on the Welcome table or at [polkcityumc.org/online-worship](https://www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship))

HYMN #221 "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 1, 2, 4

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Angela Cupp

God, we do not have night vision. The sun has set on the world as we know it and we do not have night vision. So today we come to your Word hoping that this ancient truth found in scripture will feel like a hand in the dark. Guide our feet. Move us through this wilderness season. Tilt our heads upward to see the stars, and let your Word be a blanket in the cold, a light on the horizon, and a friend to walk alongside. We do not have night vision, but we know we have you. Move among us and move through us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ISAIAH 40:1-11 Angela Cupp

HYMN #216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" vs. 1-2

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-24, PSALM 121 Scott Mead

HYMN #218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1, 3

JOHN 14: 1-3, 18-20, 25-27 Pastor Melody Webb

HYMN #230 "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung Response: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

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.

Accompanist: Angela Hansen-Abbas

Audio/Visual Tech Support: Thomas Webb, Rob Cupp

GUIDED PRAYER REFLECTIONS

Use the index card provided (or any paper at home) to write the following reflections:

- Write five words that describe how you're feeling in this moment.
- Write down the names of people you carry in your heart today.
- Write down one area of your own life where you could use God's help, comfort, or guidance.
- Write down a prayer for your faith journey.
- Write down a prayer concern you have for our world.
- Take a minute to write any lingering prayers you have at this moment.

HYMN #239 "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs. 1, 2, 4

We will light candles at this time to ritualize the weight and significance of the prayers you have written, as well as a person, incident, experience, or need in your life that you wish to lift up to God, as you come to the table to light a candle or two in honor of that prayer. Watch the room grow brighter as the light spreads.

SENDING

One: We are here.

All: We are here.

One: I see you and your pain.

All: I see you and your pain.

One: I see you and your hope.

All: I see you and your hope.

One: You are my neighbor.

All: You are my neighbor.

One: We belong to one another.

All: We belong to one another.

One: We are not in this alone.

All: We are not in this alone.

One: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

All: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

One: Amen.

BENEDICTION

OFFERING: *Your gift in-person, by mail or mobile device, or online at www.polkcityumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. Thank you for your extravagant generosity! Find this week's announcements on the back side of the bulletin, or on our website at www.polkcityumc.org*