

# Moran United Methodist Church

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Worship Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Advent

## Welcome

Welcome to worship! Though we are unable to gather in person today, we can still worship together and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who keeps us connected even while we are apart. This service will be livestreamed on Sunday morning at 10:30am via Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/moranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)) and on the front page of our website ([www.moranumc.org](http://www.moranumc.org)). The recording will be available immediately following the livestream.

## Call to Worship *(you are invited to read this responsively)*<sup>1</sup>

Joanne Brown, Liturgist

Leader: Welcome to worship this day!

**People: The light of this season has beckoned us to come.**

Leader: Come and rejoice, for God's light is coming to us.

**People: Praise be to God who pours light into our lives.**

Leader: Open your hearts and spirits to receive the blessings of God.

**People: May we always be ready to respond in joyful ways to God's love. AMEN.**

## Lighting The Advent Candles: Love

The Prizeman Family

## Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

<http://bit.ly/AngelsHeard>

## Prayers of the People

*You are invited to offer your prayers aloud to God or share them in the video comments if watching on Facebook. Prayer requests can also be emailed to Pastor Cody at [PastorNatland@gmail.com](mailto:PastorNatland@gmail.com)*

## Pastoral Prayer

### 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.who**

## Hymn

"The First Noel"

<http://bit.ly/NoelLyrics>

## Scripture

### **2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 (NRSV)**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people

Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

### **Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

## **Moran UMC Virtual Christmas Pageant**

**Special Music**                      "What A Glorious Night"                      <http://bit.ly/GloriousLyrics>

**Meditation**                      "Be Not Afraid, Shepherds!"                      Rev. Cody Natland

*The sermon will be delivered during the livestream and on the video recording (Facebook and website); copies of the manuscript are available upon request and are included with the copy of the weekly bulletin mailed to those without access to our livestreamed services.*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

We invite you to continue to give your pledged gifts, offerings, and tithes to support the church and its ministries. Though the building is empty, our ministries continue to be active, and many of our expenses continue during this season. Please give as your financial situation allows.

You can give online at [www.moranumc.org/give](http://www.moranumc.org/give), or you can mail your donation to the church at 3601 E 65<sup>th</sup> Ave / Spokane, WA 99223.

**Hymn**                      "What Child Is This"                      <http://bit.ly/WhatChildLyrics>

### **Benediction**

God of Light and Hope, in whom there is no darkness, cause your light to shine on us and through us to others, that they may know of you and of your Love. Let us witness to your gift of Jesus who came and taught us how to live as children of Light. Go in peace, dear friends, and know that the God of light, hope, peace, and joy goes with you. **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Call to Worship by Nancy Townley. Accessed at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/1966/worship-connection-december-20-2020>*

<sup>2</sup> *Benediction by Nancy Townley. Accessed at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/1966/worship-connection-december-20-2020>*

*Permission for the use of the music in this service and livestream given by CCLI. CCLI License 1507867; CCLI Streaming License CSPL155631.*

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### **Virtual Coffee Hour**

Sundays at 11:30am on Zoom

*Immediately following the worship service*

Join by Computer/Tablet/Smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96460688631>

Join by Phone (home phone, landline, or cell – no internet required)

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

+1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

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### **Christmas Eve Services**

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and 7:00pm

#### **Drive-In/Outdoor Christmas Eve Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm -- Please arrive between 3:30pm-4:00pm (Moran UMC)

Join us in person in your car in the parking lot or physically distanced on the lawn at Moran UMC for a short Christmas Eve Service beginning at 4:00pm, which will include the reading of the story of Jesus' birth, Christmas carols, a short message, and Holy Communion. We will end with "Silent Night" and sharing the Light of Christ.

As you arrive, you will receive a bag that will include the words to all of the service liturgy and the manuscript of Pastor Cody's message, a battery-operated candle, pre-packed Communion juice/wafer, and a bag of Christmas treats. Cars will be parked facing the gazebo, with shorter cars in front and larger vans/SUV's in the back. Space will also be available on the lawn, with anybody outside of their vehicles wearing masks and keeping physical distancing. If you would like to sit on a chair in the lawn, please bring your own chair. The building will remain locked, with no bathroom access.

The service will be broadcast over speakers, so please dress warmly and be prepared to have your window rolled down to hear. *Those who do not wish to stay for the service can pick up a worship bag from a bin in front of the church (curbside or under the covered entry, weather depending) between Noon and 3:00pm on Christmas Eve.*

#### **Live-Streamed Christmas Eve Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm on Facebook ([facebook.com/moranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)) and Website ([www.moranumc.org](http://www.moranumc.org))

Join us from home at 7:00pm for our full Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, with both beloved carols and special music. Make sure you have a candle available, as this service will also include candle lighting as we remember the night of Jesus' birth and the light of God coming into our world.

## Christmas Eve Worship Bags

If you are unable to attend the Outdoor/Drive-In Christmas Eve service, we invite you to pick up a bag of Christmas Eve worship supplies on Christmas Eve between Noon and 3pm. The bags will be available in a bin either curbside or at the front doors, depending on the weather. These bags will include a worship bulletin, battery-operated candle, pre-filled communion cup, and goodie bag. If you are unable to pick up on Christmas Eve, please call the church office to arrange another time.

*If you would like to help assemble these bags, we could use 1-2 additional volunteers on Tuesday morning beginning at 10am. Please contact Pastor Cody or the church office to volunteer.*

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## Advent and Christmas With Moran UMC

The season is here, and we are looking forward to lots of exciting programs, events, and other opportunities coming up throughout this month! More details will be coming soon, so stay tuned each week and check out your December Newsletter to learn more.

### *Weekly Opportunities:*

- **"Be Not Afraid"** Worship Series on Sunday mornings at 10:30am (Facebook)
- **"Incarnation" Advent Study** on Wednesdays from 6-7:15pm (Zoom)

### *Other Events*

- **Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, December 20th during our live-streamed worship service (Facebook and Website)

### *Christmas Eve Services*

- **Drive-In / Outdoor Christmas Eve Service** on December 24th at 4:00pm (Moran UMC)
  - **Livestreamed Christmas Eve Service** on December 24th at 7:00pm (Facebook)
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## Mitten Tree

Throughout the month of December, we are collecting the following items for the Mitten Tree: Adult and children size hats, gloves/mittens, socks and scarves. Donations for the Mitten Tree can be dropped off during our "Mission Mondays" Drive-Through on Mondays from 10:00-11:00am. They can also be left at the front door of the church on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

If you would prefer to have your Mitten Tree donations picked up from your home, please call the Church Office at (509)448-7102 and a volunteer will arrange pick-up.

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## Christmas Love Offering for MUMC Staff

Each Christmas we take an offering for voluntary gifts for our Moran UMC staff members in appreciation for all they do throughout the year.

The past year has been a particularly stressful year and the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee wishes to express thanks for all the extra effort each staff person has put into keeping our church alive and vibrant this year. You may mark your gift to an individual person or persons if desired. Please mark your gifts "STAFF APPRECIATION". Gifts may be dropped off or mailed to the church, and Dennis Kifer will ensure that they are shared with the staff.

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### **Sharing Our Gratitude for Kevin Torres**

As you are aware, Kevin Torres' staff position of Family and Children/Youth Services Director has been eliminated effective December 31, 2020 due to budget and pandemic realities.

COVID-19 has created multiple difficulties for ministry in this time, and ministries with Children, Youth, and Families have faced challenges in every church. Kevin has worked hard throughout this year to provide ongoing ministries despite these immense challenges. While ministry in this year has not been what we expected, we are thankful to Kevin for continuing to pour his heart into this work.

In appreciation to Kevin for his service to our church, we are giving you the opportunity to express your thanks to Kevin by sending cards and/or gifts to him to share your gratitude for his hard work, dedication, and love for our church community. You may drop off or send them to the church marked "Kevin Torres".

Please continue to hold Kevin in your prayers as he discerns where God is calling him, whether to education or vocation. We thank God for Kevin's time with us at Moran UMC and ask for God's blessings upon his future endeavors.

Thank you.

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### **Monday Vespers and Holy Communion**

Monday Evenings at 6:30pm

Connect via Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/moranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)

Connect via Zoom (computer/tablet/smartphone: <https://greater-nw.zoom.us/j/97155799598>)

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 253 215 8782 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

+1 346 248 7799 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

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### **Mission Monday Drive-Through**

*Mondays from 10:00am - Noon at Moran UMC (New expanded hours!)*

*Shalom Ministries, Second Harvest, and Mitten Tree*

We invite you to curbside drop-off of any donations you have for Shalom Ministries, Second Harvest, or the Mitten Tree on Monday mornings from 10:00am - Noon at Moran UMC. Bins for donations to each of these organizations will be available along the curb at the front of the church building.

## Prayer Requests

- Joy for the beginning of the Covid-19 **vaccine rollout**.
- For our **family members, friends, and community members who are ill with Covid-19**.
- For **Alex**, the newborn grandson of the Rainey's, who remains in the hospital gaining strength. Prayers also for Alex's parents, **Mandy** and **Eric**, and brother **Patrick**.
- For the **family of Joanne Brown's niece, Kathy Sasse**. Kathy's husband, Doug, passed away suddenly on December 7<sup>th</sup> while at work.
- For **local families displaced and recovering** after an apartment fire last week at the Regal Ridge Apartments.
- For the **family of Kathy Kramer**, pastor of Elmore UMC, who passed away. Prayers also for the **Elmore congregation** as they grieve the loss of their pastor.
- For **Lynley**, the daughter of a childhood friend of Harriet Van Wyck.
- For **Andy**, a friend of the Thompsons and worship leader at Southside Christian Church, who is on hospice care.
- For **Ed Malcolm** as he manages pain in his esophagus.
- For **Jeannie McDermott**, as her eye continues to heal and her vision is slowly improving.
- For the **McCrea-Jones Family**.
- For continued healing and strength for **Kim Newman, Jeff Johnson, Richard Smith, and Evangeline Johnson**.
- For **Karen Tauscher** as she continues her cancer treatments.
- For all around the country and world who are sick, recovering, and grieving deaths from **COVID-19**. For those experiencing **loneliness and isolation**.
- For **residents and health professionals in Spokane County** as our COVID-19 numbers continue to be elevated.
- For those **recovering from natural disasters and wildfires**.
- For those who are working for change in our nation around issues of **racial justice**.
- For our **church leaders** as they continue to envision a gradual, phased reopening process for our church and those around our Annual Conference. For our local church leaders and our Bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky.