

**Cedar Springs
United Methodist Church
December 27, 2020
9:30 a.m.**



Prelude

Greeting

Scripture: Psalm 148 – Tom Noreen

Opening Prayer: Tom Noreen

Call to Worship: Larry French

We waited.

And imagined a savior.

We imagined power.

One like the world but stronger and on our side.

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

We imagined the work done for us
through the destruction of our enemies.

**We receive a baby who will teach us our calling
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

Together with Kids:

“Jesus Loves Me! This I Know” (UMH 191, vs. 1) - Scott Family

Music: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs. 1-3 UMH 224)
Bonnie Hitchingham

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV) - Larry French

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;²⁶ this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon²⁸ came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon²⁹ took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant³⁰ in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon³⁵ blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna³⁷ the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child³⁹ to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Message: “Christmas in the Trenches” - Pastor Larry French

Music: “Joy to the World” (vs. 1,3,4 UMH 246)
Bonnie Hitchingham

The Offering

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Participants:

Tom Noreen, Liturgist
Larry French, Pastor

Bonnie Hitchingham, Pianist
Scott Family, Together with Kids

Cedar Springs in Prayer

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office @ 616-696-1140 or email: office@cedarspringsumc.org.

Names will remain on the prayer list for 1 month unless notified. Thank you.

Members	Friends	In Care Facilities
Art & Rosann Gerhardt	Cathy Detz	The Brook of C.S.-
Gerry & Lois Collis	Kevin & Jonicah Gerhardt	Albert Abel
Alice Powell-Anderson	Teresa Tibbe	Spectrum Hospital
Jerry & Betty VanderWal	Ron Tennant & family	Frances Abel
Steve Mueller	Oliver Ramirez	Phil & Bev Wesche
Dan & Diane Christie	Judy Meek Erickson	Metron of C.S. -
Woody & Jan Avis	Family of Jane Percy	Rose Hunter
Wayne & June Price	Audrey Looman	
Hal Ringler	Family of Gary Hosmer	
Fred & Carollee Gunnell	Family of Gordon "Doc" VanOtteren	
Bud & Helen Gambee	Neil Young	
	Dale Waller	
	Tim Price	
	Randy Benedict	

Kids Hope USA:

Mentors, Prayer Partners, and Students

In Our Country's Service:

Jordan Ackerman	Aaron Burnside	Tyler Hinton
Mitchell Phillips	Elisabeth Bullen	David Segard III
Nick Segard	Peter & Mikelle Noreen	
Jenny Jo Collin (Mueller)	Russell & Janet (Noreen)	Scott-Evelyn, Noah
James & Jackie (Champion) Finley	Ben & Sarah (Noreen)	Smith- Kate, Jessica

Church News

Church Building Use: If you have a need to enter the church building during this time, please use the office entrance and remember to sign in so that we know who and where in the building people have been. This will help us to keep areas sanitized and safe for all our staff, members and volunteers.

Year-end Reimbursements: Make sure that you turn in your receipts for reimbursements into the church treasurer by Monday, December 28, 2020 so that we can close our 2020 yearend at the end of December.

2020 Donations/Offerings: Please remember that any donations or offerings that you wish to apply to your 2020 taxes need to be to the church office no later than Monday, December 28, 2020. Anything received after that date will be applied to the year 2021. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at the numbers listed on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you.

Stewardship Pledge Cards:

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their cards. If you haven't had the chance, please return the pledge cards to the office as soon as possible so that we can finish updating the church budget. You can mail them or make arrangements to drop off at the church— contact the church office if you wish to drop off. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at the office phone number.



Contact Information

Pastor: Larry French (616) 551-9280

Pastor Email: pastorlarryfrench@gmail.com

Ministry Assistant: Jennifer August (616) 696-1140

Church Office Email: office@cedarspringsumc.org

Web: www.cedarspringsumc.org