



*Glory to the  
newborn king*

December 28, 2025

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

28 December 2025

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## GREETING

Xan Morgan

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** from the carol *Cold December Flies Away*

Will Grapentine

One: In the hopeless time of sin, shadows deep had fallen

**Many: All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping.**

One: But when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light

**Many: Brings endless joy of our hopes bright dawning,**

**All: Jesus, child beloved of heaven.**

## PRELUDE

*Once in Royal David's City*  
(Tune: *IRBY*)

Philip Moore  
(b.1943, English)

## OPENING PRAYER

Will Grapentine

## \*THE PSALM

from Psalm 148

Will Grapentine

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens;

**Many: Praise God from the highest places.**

One: Praise the Lord, all creation!

**Many: Let us praise the Lord, for God's loving command created us.**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth;

**Many: Young women and men alike, old and young together!**

One: Let us praise the name of the Lord,

**Many: whose glory is greater than earth and heaven.**

**All: Praise the Lord!**

## \*HYMN 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 1:8-22

Will Grapentine

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA** (Hymn 72, sung twice)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGee

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

(Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Matt Ackerman

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*O Holy Night*

Nancy & Randall Faber  
Alexandra DaSilva, piano

**\*GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 2:13-23

Matt Ackerman

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*God Truly with Us*

Matt Ackerman

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

Xan Moran

**OFFERING OF GIFTS**

*What Sweeter Music*

John Rutter  
Shin-Ae Chun, piano

What sweeter music can we bring, than a carol,

For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?

Awake the voice! Awake the string! Heart, ear, and eye, and everything.

Awake! the while the active finger runs division with the singer.

(Original words by Robert Herrick from the 17th century)

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above you heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Xan Morgan

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Xan Morgan

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

**\*HYMN 250**

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

**\*BENEDICTION**

Matt Ackerman

**POSTLUDE**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Robert W. Thygerson  
(1921-2017, American)

\*Please stand in body or spirit

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in gratitude for my church family and all of the cards you have sent.*

*~ Bob Shannon ~*

We pray for **Ed Parmentier, Bob Reynolds, Jon VanderVliet, Rick Zimmerman, Erica Diels, Chuck Suits, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Betty Doman, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Betty Frieswyk, Tommi Orlando, Dakota Lawson, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**



**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.

You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.



**We welcome Rev. Matt Ackerman (he/him) to the pulpit this morning.** Matt Ackerman serves as pastor at the Campus Chapel, a campus ministry at UM in the Reformed tradition. He's a graduate of Calvin University and Princeton Theological Seminary and has been involved in campus ministry in some capacity for most of his life. His hometown is Seattle, Washington, though he spent many of his formative years in State College, Pennsylvania. He's married to Marianne, a special education teacher originally from Cleveland, Ohio, and they're parents of two young daughters. Next Sunday we will welcome Beth Foster to the pulpit.

**Join us downstairs after worship for fellowship time.** We'd love to connect!

**Children's Ministry.** All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant - 3 years). Children through 5th grade leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Please pick up your children from the upstairs play space after worship today as Children's Choir is not meeting today.

**The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12.** Join us in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. This fall we have focused on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast ([jillian@fbca2.org](mailto:jillian@fbca2.org)).

**The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year.** It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Mary Davis for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis ([madrads@umich.edu](mailto:madrads@umich.edu)), sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect), or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room. **The Gathering is on break and will resume on January 14.**

**New Study Offering starting January 14.** A ten-week workshop entitled *Explore your Spiritual Footprint* will begin on January 14 @1p in the Lounge. Understand how the Holy Spirit manifests itself in you. Learn about your faith and how to express yourself in spiritual matters. For more information contact Paul Larson (lapd4larson@gmail.com).

**Upcoming Change from Unity FI Solutions.** The legacy platform that was on the church website for making credit card payments to the church, including recurring payments, has been shut down. A new link has been added to access the new platform. If you have used the old link, you will need to create a new account and set up a new recurring payment. Reach out to Kat (office@fbca2.org) if any questions or concerns.

**Land Acknowledgement.** We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinabae people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.



**Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.**

### Calendar

January 1	New Year's Day – Church Office & Buildings Closed
January 2	Church Office & Buildings Closed
January 7	Bible Study @1:00p
January 8	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p

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Revs. Beth and Bill Foster, *Associates for Pastoral Care*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*

Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*