

STAUNTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Worshipping Christ with Joy, Living Together in Peace,
and Serving the World with Love

11:00 A.M.

December 26, 2021

Close to Home Week 5:
Invited Home

Gathering Music

Mabel Lou Weiss

The Chiming of the Hour - This morning, we will take a moment of silence to prepare our hearts for worship during the chiming of the hour. After which, the light of Christ will be carried in by our Acolytes.

Prelude “Angels We Have Heard On High” arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome and Life of the Church

*Call to Worship

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

Many: to carry Christ into this world.

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

Many: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

One: The shepherds were invited—

Many: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

One: The Magi were invited—

Many: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

Many: then we can trust that we too are invited.

One: This story is for us.

Many: This love is for us.

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

Many: Amen.

Singing **Angels we have heard on high** #197

Children’s Story

Singing **Infant holy, infant lowly** #206

Poem “Invitations” By Sarah Are Speed
Read by Mark Lane

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:1-20**

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God,

We’ve heard this story a million times—

Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.

We’ve heard it a million times,

but we want to hear it like it’s the first.

So move among us.

Circle back.

Draw close.

Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear

what it is you might be saying to us

with curiosity, joy, and hope.

This is an invitation.

Come be here with us.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Sermon

Invited Home

Singing

What child is this?

#215

Sharing and Prayer

Invitation to Give

Offertory

“In Dulci Jubilo”

arr. James Pethel

*Doxology

*Singing

Hark! the herald angels sing

#201

*Benediction - Please remain standing while the Acolytes carry out the Light of Christ. As a symbol of our commitment to follow Christ, we will follow the Light of Christ out of the building into the world.

*Postlude

“Mary Had a Baby”

arr. Douglas Wagner

CONTINUING THE WORK OF JESUS
PEACEFULLY. SIMPLY. TOGETHER.

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(* denotes the people standing as they are able)

Ministers: All God's People
Office Manager: Annie Collins
Youth Communications Coordinator: Amy Farthing
Christian Education Directors: Brennen Gilbert, Catherine Sanger
Director of Music: David MacMillan Organist: Gaylon Hevener
Worship Leader: Claude Simmons Children's Time: Pastor Beth
Ushers: Delmer Botkin, John Jones, Wallace Clark, Mark Sager
Caregiving Team Members: Sue Botkin, Bruce Bowman, Bryan Quick, Ferral
Quick, Gail Gregory, Candy Smith, Debbie Landes, Ernie Landes