

# Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas Day – New Year's Day

## WORDS OF CONTEMPLATION

*New Year's Day is every man's birthday.*

- Charles Lamb

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* OPENING HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* #242

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us dance with delight in the light of love

**Many: Let our hearts be filled with rejoicing.**

One: For eternal salvation has appeared on earth

**Many: Alleluia, thanks be to God!**

\* HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (vs. 1) #383

## TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

## OPENING PRAYER

**Once again, God of Love, you have brought us to the glad season of new starts and blessed beginnings. Grant that the Spirit of Christ might be born anew in our hearts as we joyfully welcome Jesus into our lives and families once again. Open our ears to hear the songs of angels. Open our lips to sing the good news of peace on earth, good will to all. Through Christ, make it so we pray. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE WORD *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (vs. 2) #383

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**As we hear the word proclaimed this day, may we receive Christ into our hearts, and may we feel the Spirit move around and through us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Galatians 4:4 - 7  
p. 185 or 1331 (NRSV pew Bibles)

## RESPONSE TO THE LESSON

One: God's word for God's creation.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

\* HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (vs. 3) #383

\* GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22 - 40  
p. 57 or 1203 (NRSV pew Bibles)

\* RESPONSE TO THE LESSON

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*Beginnings*

Rev. Leigh Dry

OFFERING

Offertory

\* Doxology

*What Gift Can We Bring*

*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?*

*What words can convey it, the joy of this day?*

*When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer in honor and praise?*

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,  
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!*

*When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer in honor and praise!*

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

\* HYMN

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (vs. 4)

#383

\* PASSING THE PEACE

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Leader: God in your mercy.

**People: Receive our prayer.**

The Jesus Prayer

**O God, who is in all places, we celebrate your utmost holiness. May your ways of life be how we live and think and act – in this world, and beyond. May we seek for this day - only our needs, and no more, and we ask that you forgive us the wrong we have done but only as much as we also offer such grace to others. Protect us, God, from all that would separate us from your love. And lead us away from all that creates evil for us and for all others. We pray this, God, in awareness of your transcending love and your reconciling presence which redeems and empowers us, together, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (vs. 5)

#383

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy by the Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett, Ph.D., with adaptations)

One: Christ invites all of us to this table.

**Many: Before we gather here, we leave behind the old, and prepare for a new start.**

**All: Holy One, you have made us people of new things, a people who walk confidently in faith toward open doors and fresh beginnings. We hesitate. We forget that wherever we go, you travel with us. Remind us that you are the God of new beginnings. Remind us**

**that you pour courage and goodness into our hearts making us more powerful than we can imagine. God of Grace, may it be so.**

Sung Response                      *Sanctus*                      # 2257-b (*The Faith We Sing*)

*Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! (repeat twice) Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest! (repeat twice)*

One: Jesus called us to live a new way, embracing all God's creation with love and joy. Our hope yielded to fear, and so we gave Jesus away, God's truth in human form.

**Many: Before Jesus was taken, he invited us to the Passover table. He blessed the bread and we shared it. He blessed the cup and we drank it. And he told us to do this always to remember the Truth that came to us and will come to us again. On this day of new beginnings, we remember God never leaves us. Truth cannot be silenced. Goodness overwhelms Evil. Love defies Death. We cannot understand, but we can sing out our gladness for the mystery that is God's faith in us and our faith in God.**

Sung Response                      *Memorial Acclamation*                      # 2257-c (*The Faith We Sing*)

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

One: God does a new thing. God pours out the Spirit onto this everyday food and it becomes extraordinary. God pours out the Spirit on us everyday people and we become the body of Jesus Christ, dreaming together of a new day. Do we see it? Do we hear it? Can we taste it? This is a day of new dreams. And the dream begins here at the table of forgiveness and blessing where we are set free from wandering and awed into wonder that God makes all things new.

Sung Response                      *Great Amen*                      # 2257-d (*The Faith We Sing*)

*Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! (repeat twice)*

\* CLOSING HYMN                      *There's a Song in the Air* (vs. 1 and 4)                      #249

\* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

.....

\* Please stand in body or spirit.

## **Lexington United Methodist Church**

*An inclusive and reconciling congregation*

2600 Massachusetts Avenue Lexington, MA 02421-6718

781-861-9301; [www.lexumc.org](http://www.lexumc.org); [office@lexumc.org](mailto:office@lexumc.org)

Rev. Leigh Dry, Pastor; Marla Marcum, Christian Education Director

Sarah Hager, Music Director/Organist Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

# *Lexington United Methodist Church*

**Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 10:00 am**

**First Sunday after Christmas Day – New Year’s Day**

## **WELCOME**

*We especially welcome all visitors and newcomers. We invite you to make yourselves known to the members and pastor of the church, to sign the guest book in the Narthex and to join us in Martin Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the worship service. We greet you in the Lord’s name, and are glad to have you with us.*

*To all who are young and need counsel; to all who are strong and want a task; to all who are lonely and want companionship; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are sinful and need a Savior — to whomsoever will: this Church opens wide its doors and, in the name of Christ our Lord, says, Welcome.*

## **PRAYER LIST**

*New additions to the prayer list are in bold typeface. To add or remove a name from the list, please advise Rev. Dry or Allyson.*

Todd Bergman, Claire Carlson, Bonnie Codier, Jack Dunn, Allen Garland, Family of Camille Goodwin, Bill Grabow, Muriel Grimes, Hill Family, Jim Hogan, Louise Kreutziger, Jessica Moskowitz, Lenn Murphy, Steve Mosiello, Bill Santelmann, Eric Shank and Don Walker.

## **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Jane Atkins

Usher: Katie Atkins

Acolyte: Ryan Atkins

Sound Booth: Rainer von Saleski and Dave Dry

Sound Technician: Bernice von Saleski

Nursery Care: Theresa and Melanie Walker

## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 1 - 8, 2012

**Sunday, January 1 - First Sunday after Christmas Day - New Year's Day**

### Holy Communion

10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care

11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall

**Monday, January 2 – Office Closed**

**Thursday, January 5**

7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 8 – Epiphany Sunday**

8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care

10:00 am *Godly Play*

11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall

3:30 pm UM foundation of NE 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

5:00 pm Youth Group

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upper Room Disciplines for 2012** are for sale in the church office. Each book of daily devotions is \$12.00.
- **The Youth Group** will be meeting in the library on Sunday, January 8 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **UM Foundation of New England's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** will be held at LUMC on Sunday, January 8 at 3:30 pm. See January 2012 newsletter for details.
- **Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm to discuss *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.
- **Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Potluck and Game Night** on Sunday, January 22 at 5:30 pm. King cake and games!