

This Week at Epworth

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

—10:00am Coffee Fellowship

—10:30am Worship

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

—1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday, January 3

—7:00pm Youth

Thursday, January 4

—10:00am Bible Study

—5:30pm Staff Christmas Party

Sunday, January 7

—9:00am Sunday School

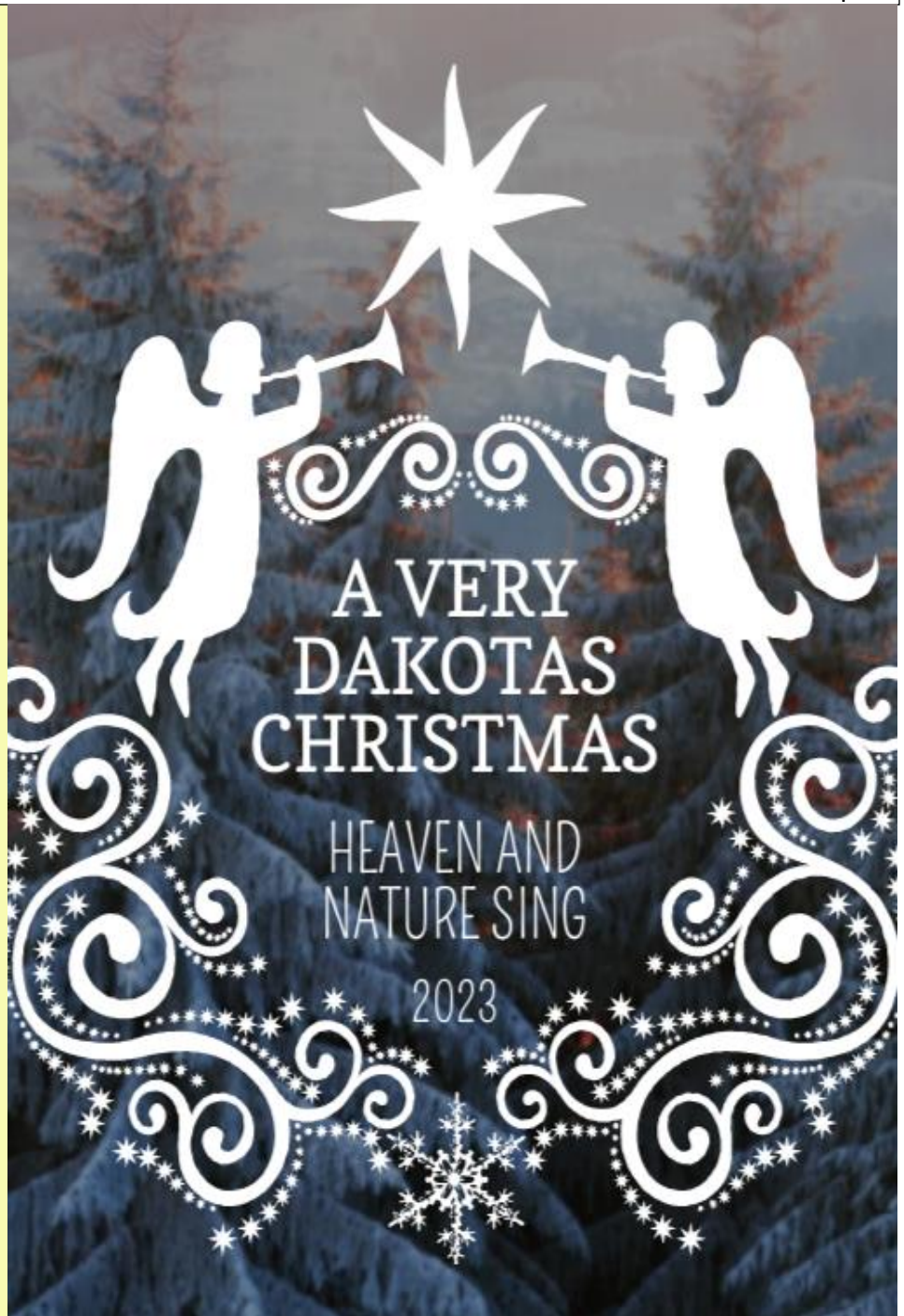
—10:00am Coffee Fellowship

—10:30am Worship

Welcome! If you're a guest, know that we're glad you're here, and that we'd love to get to know you better. If this is your first visit, welcome. If you are returning, welcome back!

Coffee Fellowship time is at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy coffee, lemonade, water, and a treat. We welcome our visitors to join us!

This service is livestreamed at
epworthvalleycity.com



Contact Information

680 8th Ave. SW

Valley City, ND 58072

Ph: 701-845-0340

epworthvalleycity.com

Sermon Series

Previous Sundays—

Do You See What I See?

Children's Christmas Program

Do You Taste What I Taste?

Do You Feel What I Feel?

Today—

Singing God's Song

By Rev. Rebecca Trefz

Our Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Living, sharing and growing in God's love by bringing the world to Christ and Christ to the world through open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

Our Strategy

Radical Hospitality

Spiritual Growth

Signature Ministries

Collaborative Leadership

Heaven and Nature Sing: A Very Dakotas Christmas 2023 Order of Worship

Prelude— "*What Child is This*" performed by Rev. Teresa Person, Huron Riverview UMC

Welcome— Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church

Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

We light the candle of joy.

All heaven and nature sing!

We light the candle of love.

All heaven and nature sing!

We light the candle of peace.

All heaven and nature sing!

We light the candle of hope.

All heaven and nature sing!

We light the candle of Jesus, God with us. All heaven and nature sing!

Call to Worship — Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Northeast District Superintendent and Rev. Joel Winckler, Northwest District Superintendent

Join me in the call to worship:

People have proclaimed God's praises throughout the ages.

Now it is our turn to worship the Lord and announce God's presence and love

to the inhabitants of this world.

With voice and musical instruments, with lovely melodies and joyful sounds,

Let us proclaim the glory of God.

Let us fill our homes and sanctuaries, our halls of learning, our factories,

and marketplaces, even the streets of our towns with sounds of celebration.

Gods is here; God is now!

Hymn— *Joy to the World* No. 246 Pierre First United Methodist Church Choir, Pierre, S.D.

Children's Story — "Sounding Joy" by Ellie Holcomb
narrated by Rev. Joel Winckler, Northwest District Superintendent;
accompaniment by Rev. Teresa Person, Riverview UMC, Huron, S.D.

Prayer — Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Southeast District Superintendent and
Director of Ministries

O wondrous God of the stars, we come with breathless wonder to see
the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful
Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You
have touched the earth with your unconditional love. Connect with us—
touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story.
May we never take it for granted. Inspire us again, so that all heaven and
nature sing. Amen.

Scripture — John 1:1-5, Luke 2:1-20, and John 1:6-14 CEB

Response to the Word— Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Northeast District
Superintendent

God, we see your light shining in the darkness. We hear the Christmas
Angels.
We behold your promises fulfilled in the birth of this wondrous child.
May this magical story become real in our lives as all heaven and nature
sing.

Song— "This is Jesus," Praise Team, First UMC, Brookings, S.D.

Sermon— "Singing God's Song" Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Director of Minis-
tries and Southeast District Superintendent

Song — "Sounding Joy" Praise Team, First UMC, Fargo, N.D.

Closing Prayer— Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent

Holy God of Christmas and every day, keep the joy of your coming in
our hearts as we move beyond the stable and into the world. May the
joy of giving that has filled our hearts this week move us to share our
time, talent, and treasure with love and devotion to you. Remind us
that we can't stay by the manger but must move back into a world
where children are still in danger and families still flee as refugees from
persecution and injustice. May our lives be the gifts we give, used in
every way to bring your compassion and grace to those who suffer and
who live on the margins that all heaven and nature would sing. Alleluia!
Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week

Fighting Cancer

Jan Barlow
Jo Thorson
Jill Olson
Arin Lutiker
Dale Neuberger
Don Baasch

Prayer Requests

Our 4GoG Ministries
mental health concerns
Lori Glaser
World Leaders
Military
Jaxon Horsager
Kathy Mah
Mark Ziebert
Vivian Ziebert
LeRoy Magnuson
Wayne McKirdy
Erin Reielbach
Wyatt Tulp
Gail Pederson
Ashley Enright
Jerry & LaWanna Hieb
Macy Raven
Family of Matt Bernard
Family of Christine
Hermanson
Family of Jim Leadbetter
Sr.

In Joy

The holiday season
Time with friends &
family

If you or a member of your
family is going into the hospital
or moving from one care center
to another and you would like
the church to know about this,
please call the church office at
701-845-0340 or email
office@epworthvalleycity.com.
This helps our church family
care for one another.

Ministers of the Gospel

All members of the congregation.

Appointed Clergy

Rev. Duane Coates
pastor@epworthvalleycity.com
Phone: 701-845-0156
Cell: 605-695-5561

Program Staff

Cassidy Fraedrich
Office Administrator
office@epworthvalleycity.com
701-845-0340

Hayley Winkler
Christian Ed. Director
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com
Cell: 701-840-7073

Paul & Brenda Lint
Youth Ministries
youth@epworthvalleycity.com
Cell: 701-840-0410

VirLyn Hoff
Congregational Care Coordinator
virlynhoff@yahoo.com
Cell: 701-840-9285

Northwest District Superintendent

Rev. Joel Winckler

Dakotas Bishop

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

You can use your smartphone to give electronically today. Just scan the QR code below.



epworthvalleycity.com/giving

Guest wifi: Epworth Guest
Password: epworth@guest

Hymn— *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*, No. 89, Choir, First UMC, Jamestown, N.D.

Blessing – Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; All Heaven and Nature Sing

Postlude— "Angels We Have Heard on High" Rev. Teresa Person, Huron Riverview UMC, S.D.



We Care For Our Community

Please share with the church office if you, a family member, or another in our church family are experiencing illness, hospitalization, or need of pastoral care.

Pastor Duane Coates, Office: 845-0340 Cell: 605-695-5561