

*“If my people...will humbly pray...then I will forgive their sin and heal their land”  
(II Chronicles 7:14; CEB)*

Worship Leader: Barbara Bibbs

**ENTRANCE & PRAISE**

Prelude John Kwon

Welcome Rev. McClain

Announcements

Call to Worship Barbara Bibbs

L: The powerful voice of God created all worlds.  
That same voice calls us to worship.

**All: Ascribe to our God glory and strength.  
Come before God's glorious majesty.**

L: God's strength shakes the wilderness.  
That same strength is offered to people of faith

**All: The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.  
May God bless all people with true peace**

L: Come together to remember your baptism.  
Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

**All: The heavens open to us at the Word of God.  
Surely God forgives and makes whole.**

Opening Hymn **“Morning Has Broken” (vs.1 & 3)** UMH #145

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

Passing the Peace

Pastoral Prayer Rev. McClain

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION**

Scripture Reading **II Chronicles 7:11-16** Barbara Bibbs

This is the Word of Life for all the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

Offering Anthem John Kwon

You may give online at [www.bfvumc.org/online-giving](http://www.bfvumc.org/online-giving) or mail to  
Bethany of Fox Valley UMC, 2200 Ridge Ave. Aurora, IL. 60504

Message **Heal Our Land** Rev. McClain

**SENDING FORTH**

Closing Hymn **“Trust and Obey” (vs. 1 & 4)** UMH #467

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
what a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.

**Refrain:**

Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
or we'll walk by his side in the way;  
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go;  
never fear, only trust and obey.

**Refrain:**

Benediction Rev. McClain

Postlude John Kwon

Date	Dec 13	Dec 20	Dec 27	Jan 3
On-Line	67	52	74	49
Offering	\$3,4306 Christ. \$50	\$3,565 Christ. \$1,200	\$2,667 Christ \$700	<b>\$4,497</b>



# Announcements

## 1. SAINTS IN ACTION

**Liturgist:** Barbara Bibbs  
**Facebook Live Service:** Park Family and Jim Young

## 2. 2021 ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available. If you would like a box for the upcoming year, please contact Lynn Coughlin at [llcoughlin@comcast.net](mailto:llcoughlin@comcast.net) or Karen in the church office at 630.851.8010 or [info@bfvumc.org](mailto:info@bfvumc.org). Leave your name and a contact number so we can assign you an envelope number and let you know when the envelopes are ready to be picked up.

## 3. ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP FOR 2021

The new Altar Flower sign-up sheet for 2021 has been created and is currently in the church office. (It will be relocated to the bulletin board in the Narthex once we return to in-person worship) For now, please contact the office at 630.851.8010 to sign up for your special Sundays in the coming New Year!

## 4. PASTORAL VISITATION WITH HOLY COMMUNION

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to Holy Communion has been very limited. Even though BFVUMC acknowledges that online communion can be still sacramental, many of you may miss terribly the physical presence of church members incorporated in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Pastor Sam is now on duty to deliver the non-anxious and prayerful presence of God with a pre-packed communion element (Wafer and Juice) to all families of BFVUMC. If you and your whole family would like to receive Holy Communion at your own place, please reach out to Pastor Sam at 847.612.7477(Call or Text) or [pastorsam@bfvumc.org](mailto:pastorsam@bfvumc.org) and he will be available at your convenience.

## 5. ONLINE GIVING

While we are keeping one another safe by practicing social distancing through online worship services, please know that your giving is vital to maintain the ministries of the church. You can continue your financial support by giving online through Bethany's website, [www.bfvumc.org](http://www.bfvumc.org). On the home page select Online Giving in the upper right corner of the screen. You will see that you have two choices: you can donate via your bank account through our partnership with Vanco, or you can donate via PayPal/Credit Card. Both options allow you to make a one-time donation or a

recurring donation. If you prefer, you can continue to support the church by mailing you contribution to **Bethany of Fox Valley UMC, 2200 Ridge Avenue, Aurora, IL 60504.**

## 6. NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE REDISTRICTING

On Dec. 17, the Cabinet and Bishop Sally Dyck approved the redistricting plan reducing the number of districts (and District Superintendents) in the Northern Illinois Conference from six to five effective July 1, 2021. The Annual Conference voted in favor of the legislation during the Nov. 14 virtual session.

The names of the districts are Lake North, Lake South, Prairie Central, Prairie North, and Prairie South. **Bethany of Fox Valley is in the Prairie Central District, along with all the other Aurora churches.**

Bishop Dyck is setting the boundaries of these districts as of December 31, 2020. Any additional reconsiderations may be submitted with a rationale to your current district superintendent by January 15, 2021. The Interim Bishop and Cabinet will make a final determination by January 31.

## 7. WELCOME INTERIM BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS

With the new year, we welcome retired Bishop John L. Hopkins, who is serving as the interim bishop for the Northern Illinois Conference through 2021.

Bishop Hopkins was elected to the episcopacy in July 1996 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Minnesota Area for eight years. In September 2004, Bishop Hopkins was assigned to the Ohio East Area until his retirement in 2016.

Bishop Hopkins and his wife Elaine live in Indianapolis. He will be working remotely for a time because of COVID-19 guidelines, but plans to travel and work out of the Chicago office periodically while keeping safety in mind.