

Sunday  
**December 27, 2020**  
9:30 a.m.

## First Sunday of Christmas

Ken Franklin



Becoming disciples,  
serving God's world.

**Visual Prayer:** Psalm 148

**Opening Prayer** — from *The Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Duet** ~ Barb Hosner and Karla Stubblefield

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:22-40

**Sermon:** "What Happens Next?" ~ Ken Franklin

**Carol:** #245 The First Noel

**Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory** ~ Tamra Stamm

**Offering Prayer** — based on Luke 2:22-40

*Thank you for your prayers and support of our finances.*

Lord of Peace and Hope, we thankfully give these generous gifts as an expression of all that you have given us. As the prophets foretold, your son was born for the redemption of our sins. We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, your gift of a babe in a manger is the one that truly matters. We prayerfully ask you to increase our ability to help others discover anew the best Christmas message ever, the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

**Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray for all people everywhere according to their needs. O God, creator and preserver of all mankind, we pray for people of every race, and in every kind of need: make your ways known on earth, your saving power among nations. We pray for the bereaved, the injured, the traumatized, and the dispossessed peoples of this world. May they be granted the courage and the strength to rebuild their lives upon your foundation. We ask your care to be with poor and needy people as well as on those who strive to help them.



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Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
We pray for all who suffer in mind or body and for those who care for them. We pray for the sick; for those who mourn; for those without faith, hope or love. We pray for any known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time. We remember them now in a moment of silence...

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
God, we feel so helpless in the face of pain and suffering on such a scale that we can scarcely take it in. Help us to accept that we will probably never know why bad things happen. Guide us to understand what our own roles might be in helping to alleviate this suffering, be they great or small, and help us to accept those roles, however limited they may seem to us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
Strengthen your church, Lord, that we may all unite in prayer as well as in practical help for those who are suffering for all reasons. We pray for courage, wisdom and guidance to stand up for our faith when it is challenged. Inspire our pastor, Greg, and our church leadership to guide us all in our ministries as we help in your mission.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
O Supreme Lord of the Universe, you fill and sustain everything around us. With the touch of your hand you turn chaos into order, darkness into light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. You turn our darkness into light: in your light shall we see light.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray the Lord's Prayer... *Our Father...*

**Parting Words:** "A Bigger View of Life"

*Do you have a bigger view of death than you do of life? William Paul Young (author of The Shack) speaks about life now...and later.*

**Benediction** — based on Luke 2:29-32, *The Benedictus*

Source of all rest and peace, dismiss now into our evening's quiet — you have promised no less and so much more. We are witnesses to your salvation — which you did for all people and continue to make inviting and effective. The Living Word is open for all to perceive and trust — He is the source of our faith and hope. Those who trust in God's revelation find an anchor for their souls. Source of all rest and peace, dismiss us now into our evening's harbor. Adrift no more, our home is in you.

The blessing of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

**Prayer for Family and Friends**

**Updates and New Requests This Week**

Betsy Myers' brother-in-law, Roque, is doing well and has been transferred to an in-patient rehab facility where the work really begins. It's going to be a long road back, but your prayers have worked and are greatly appreciated by the whole family. God bless, and Merry CHRISTmas to you all. Cheers for a better 2021!

Cande Vermeulen is recovering well from total knee replacement surgery.

**Previous Requests**

Pray for every family undergoing difficulties.  
Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

**VUMC's  
Mission Statement**



**The General Rule of Discipleship**

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**For Cheer and Hello**

David Bretz	Marv Starbuck
Barb Griner	Mina Willett
Flossie Lang	Betty Witcher
Robert & Carmen Parsons	

## Thank you

I want to thank Kathy Phillips for the surprise gift bag from Membership Care. It was so thoughtful. Merry Christmas. ~ *Betty Thomas*

Thank you to the Member Care Sunshine Ladies for brightening my day and warming my heart. Thank you for letting me know I am thought about. Merry Christmas to my church. ~ *Georgia Rolfe*

I love my bag of gifts so much. Thank you. ~ *Charlene Taylor*

Thank you to all of the wonderful prayer warriors there. Surgery went well, and I am healing according to schedule. I could feel all of the prayers and good vibes headed this way. What a great place to call family. Thank you all again. ~ *Cande Vermeulen*

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to UMW this year. Having no way to do fundraisers, your donations have been a blessing to us. They have helped us to be able to give to several local organizations. In His Service ~ *UMW*

## Coming deadlines

- ShopWithScrip (formerly ScripCents) orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Monday, Jan. 4.

## Midweek prayer meeting for this Wednesday, Dec. 30, has been canceled.

### This Week's Celebrations

<b><u>Birthdays</u></b>	12/31 Gwyneth Hansson
12/27 Zachary Griffin	1/1 John Cleveland
12/29 Kellie Hiemstra	<b><u>Anniversaries</u></b>
Scott Smola	12/28 Todd & Julie Griffin

# Sunday Worship

9:30 Sunday mornings

live stream at

[meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn](https://meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn)

A Google account is required to watch. If you do not have a Google account and would like to watch the live stream, please email Alex Ensing ([aensing@vicksburgumc.org](mailto:aensing@vicksburgumc.org)) to get your Google account.

We also offer the ability to call in and listen to services over the phone. Before the start time of the service, call (413) 340-2217 and enter the following pin when prompted: 950 134 510#.

**Also watch your email for YouTube links.**

## Office hours

Polly will be in the office Tuesdays from 9:00 to 1:00, Wednesdays by appointment, and will continue to work from home Mondays and Thursdays.

## UMCOR

With all the hurricanes, storm damage, flooding, and fires, UMCOR needs our help more than ever. Thank You.

## Prayer requests are available by phone

You can hear the weekly prayer requests by calling the church (649-2343). When the voicemail connects, dial 370.

### In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli  
Tyler Smith

Geoff White