

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 2, 2022 | 2nd Sunday of Christmas | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

WELCOMING WORD Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

L: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

L: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

+HYMN #299 - Cold December Flies Away

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

+ KYRIE pg. 138

+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140 "This is the feast..."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God,

C: you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 3

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'"¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN # 263 - Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+ NICENE CREED pg. 104

THE PRAYERS pg. 143

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:
“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**”)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

MEAL

+ **Offering Prayer: Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

+**The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 144

+**Words of Institution**

+ **The Lord’s Prayer** pg. 145 (right hand column)

Communion

Hymn #273 - All My Heart Again Rejoices (vs. 1, 2, 3)

+**Prayer after Communion: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

C: Amen.

+**HYMN # 298 - The Bells of Christmas (vs. 1, 2, 3)**

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 72, Prayer for Guidance

Tuesday, Isaiah 6:1-5, A Vision of God

Wednesday, Jeremiah 31:7-14, Return of the Exiles

Thursday, Matthew 2:1-12, Visit of the Magi

Friday, 1 Corinthians 2:1-10, Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Saturday, Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, Everything Has Its Time

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

- When in your life has your mourning turned to joy and dancing? (Jer 31:13)
- How many sources of light are necessary to overcome total darkness? How does that image give you hope? (John 1:5)
- In what ways does God dwell, take up residence, with you or with us? John 1:14

PRAY: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.