

December 27, 2020 • First Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

#269

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And his shelter was a stable
And his cradle was a stall
With the poor and meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

And our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone

Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
We shall see him but in heaven
Set at God's right hand on high
There his children gather round
Bright like stars with glory crowned

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A READING FROM ISAIAH 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM GALATIANS 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM LUKE 2:22-40

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Josh Brecht

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before him bow
And he is in the manger now
Christ is born today
Christ is born today

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss
Jesus Christ was born for this
He has opened heaven's door
And we are blest forevermore
Christ was born for this
Christ was born for this

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave
Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall
Christ was born to save
Christ was born to save

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continuous support to our ministry during this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#275

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Once you sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn king

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn king

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great desire of nations
You have seen his natal star
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn king

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn king

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

Vocal Leader: *Jamie De Geer and Ernst Oswald*

Musician: *Marcus De Geer*

Reader: *Erik Oswald*

AV Team: *Andrew Leach*

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