

January 3, 2021 • Second Sunday of Christmas

## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the king of angels  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*Christ the Lord*

The highest most holy  
Light of light eternal  
Born of a virgin a mortal he comes  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*Christ the Lord*

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God  
In the highest  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*Christ the Lord*

Yea Lord we greet thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*O come let us adore him*  
*Christ the Lord*

*Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2*

## GREETING

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## A READING FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus 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.”

<sup>8</sup>See, 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.

<sup>9</sup>With 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.

<sup>10</sup>Hear 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.”

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They 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.

<sup>13</sup>Then 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.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

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

R: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**A READING FROM JOHN 1: 1-18**

P: The holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(John 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.’”) <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Amy Stewart**

**HYMN**

**Word of God, Come Down on Earth**

**#510**

**Word of God come down on earth  
Living rain from heav'n descending  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
Faith and hope and love unending  
Word almighty we revere you  
Word made flesh we long to hear you**

Word eternal throned on high  
Word that brought to life creation  
Word that came from heav'n to die  
Crucified for our salvation  
Saving Word the world restoring  
Speak to us your love outpouring

Word that speaks God's tender love  
One with God beyond all telling  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit with us dwelling  
Word of truth to all truth lead us  
Word of life with one bread feed us

*Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919*

*Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. [www.selahpub.com](http://www.selahpub.com)*

## **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**

### *The First Noel*

**#300**

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went  
*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

This star drew near to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay  
*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

**Then entered in those wise men three  
Full rev'rently upon their knee  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense  
Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel**  
*Text: English traditional*

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## **SENDING MUSIC**

**Vocal Leaders:** *Mike Kerber and Mary Spoerle*  
**Musician:** *Keith Kolander*  
**Reader:** *John Webb*  
**AV Team:** *Andrew Leach*

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