

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 3, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Triune God of love and light, dwell among us as we gather to worship you. Shine your light into our life. Fill our hearts with your overflowing love. Accept our offering of prayer and praise. May we truly see you in this place. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our gracious Ruler's birth.

- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
when from our sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

- 4 From out of mystery came the Light, which made the angels sing this night;
From out of mystery came the Light, which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God and peace to all, forevermore, Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Praise God, the Creator, who made the heavens and the earth!

Unison: We celebrate in awe of God's beautiful creation.

Pastor: Praise God, the Redeemer, who came in flesh to live among us!

Unison: We gather in awe of God's coming to us.

Pastor: Praise God, the Spirit, who fills us with hope!

Unison: We follow in awe, sustained for the journey.

Pastor: Praise God, one in three, and three in one!

Unison: We worship in awe of God's merciful love.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Merciful God, through your Son, Jesus, we have become your children. Too often we reject this identity; we turn away from the parental guidance you offer and the unconditional love you have for us. Rather than trusting you, we follow our ideas and plans. Instead of caring for all of your children, we seek

our advancement instead. Forgive us, O God. Help us to trust and to return to your loving arms. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Isaiah 60: 1-6

New Testament: Matthew 2: 1-12

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: An End and A Beginning

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**We believe in God,
the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing,
and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ:
God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God
as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth
and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child
is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come,**

**and a call to live in peace
and celebrate living together.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Abundant God, we come to you today as grateful people.
We thank you for calling us your children, and for loving us as our parent. You fill us with hope. Today we pray for your children, our family, and we ask that your healing touch, your unbounded peace, and your astonishing love be made known.

With gratitude, we lift into the light our mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, those whom we have known since birth, and all who have been parental figures to us.

With thanksgiving, we lift into the light our sisters and brothers; siblings and friends who have loved us, cared for us, and helped us become the people we are today.

With concern, we lift into the light those members of our family who are hurting; those who are living with illness and disease; those who are in pain in mind, body, or spirit.

With awe, we lift into the light those family members who have answered your call to serve your children and accepted the path of ministry and discipleship.

With humility, we lift ourselves into the light:
for the places where we fall short; for the relationships we have not nurtured; for the areas in our own lives that need healing.

With desperation, we lift into the light our siblings around the world; your children who are suffering needlessly under pain of war, poverty and disease, oppression and persecution, injustice and terror, natural and human-caused disaster.

With hope, we lift into the light the youngest members of our family.

With peace, we lift into the light the oldest members of our family.

With confidence and trust, we pray to you, O God. Amen.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Gracious God, you love abundantly and provide generously. In gratitude, we give our gifts back to you. May these offerings – our time, money, energy, and prayers – nurture and support your children, and represent to all what a joy it is to be counted among your family. Use us, and these gifts, to your glory. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH*

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song. [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Special thanks to Curt Kemmerer for leading us in worship and sharing this morning's message. Thanks, too, to Wes and Avery Koser for filming the service for all to watch! Blessings to all!