January 2nd, 2022

Second Sunday after Christmas

**WORDS OF PREPARATION**

Christmas is God lighting a candle; and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. - *N. T. Wright*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Word became flesh and lived among us

**And we have seen his glory.**

The true light that enlightens everyone

Has come into the world.

**Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ.**

**Glory to God forever.**

**\*HYMN # “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

\***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting in God’s love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***(Period of silence for personal confession)***

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God’s Spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Heavenly Father, Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus, filling our world with light and life. May wisdom dwell within your words today, that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us, through the One who is close to your heart, Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 31:7-14

 John 1:(1-9), 10-18

The word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Apostle’s Creed)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall 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 life everlasting.***

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

 ***Invitation and Words of Institution***

 ***Communion***

 ***Hymn #513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”***

 ***Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer***

**INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF OFFICERS**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

Christ has lavished upon us the riches of his grace. Therefore, let us offer our lives and the fruits of our labor to God.

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at upctx.org/giving OR as you enter or exit the church sanctuary today. There are two offering boxes available. During the offertory, we will pass hats to collect offerings for our mission partners at Goodland Academy in Oklahoma.)*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your goodness to us is beyond the reaches of our imagination, a fullness of love that embraces all of life. From you we have received grace upon grace. Accept our offering for the sake of the world. All that we have is yours, and all we return to you is but a reflection of your love for us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN # “Joy to the World”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**