

2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS—JANUARY 2, 2022

A MOMENT OF SABBATH REFLECTION

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

—setting, R. Evan Copley

Helen Weiss Phelps, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father,

and of ✝ the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

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.

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.

Amen.

(Organ/Helen/choir)

***GATHERING SONG**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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

ELW # 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.**

(end)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTING

Let us 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.

“Love Has Come”

ELW # 292

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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**Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

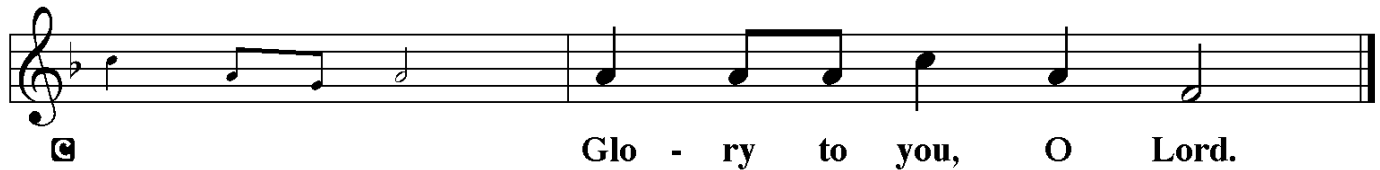
**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

TEACHING MOMENT

*GOSPEL John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.



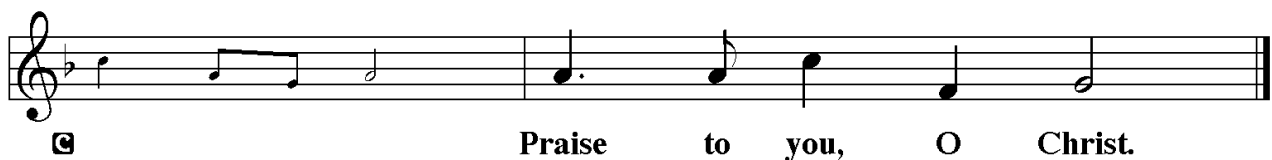
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines 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. ¹⁵(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.'") 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.

The gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY "The Word Made Flesh"

Pastor Dave Helfrich

***SONG OF THE DAY** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW # 288

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

**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!**

(end)

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 OF INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Bring your healing presence to those who struggle with illness. Tenderly embrace all in need who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Little Child”

–Barry Artmitage

*Born in a manger marked by a star,
God came to meet us, here, where we are.
This little Child to save us was born;
The King of all kings was born on this morn.*

*Sing hallelujah heaven and earth!
Jesus was born to give us new birth
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah in heav'n and earth!*

*Wise men and shepherds knelt in the hay.
Angels in heaven remind us today:
This little Child to save us was born,
the King of all kings, but his crown was of thorns.*

*Sing hallelujah heaven and earth!
Jesus was born to give us new birth
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah in heav'n and earth!*

*Lift up your voices in a new song!
He did not leave us for very long,
This little child is coming again,
The King of all kings and the Savior of all.*

*Sing hallelujah heaven and earth!
Jesus was born to give us new birth
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah in heav'n and earth!
(end)*

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

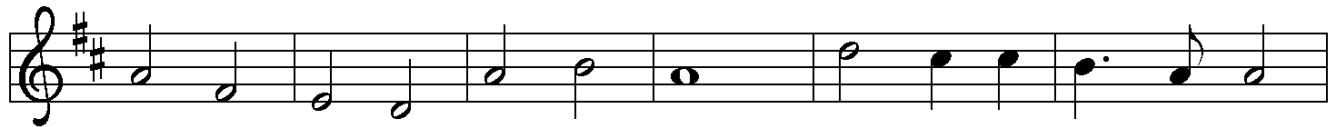
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

LAMB OF GOD



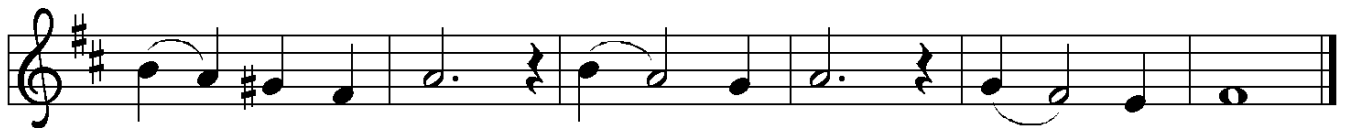
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS "What Child is This"

ELW # 296

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Public Domain

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

COMMUNION HYMN From Heaven Above

ELW # 268

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**"From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:"**

**"To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth."**

**"This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free."**

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.**

**My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:**

**"Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!**

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

***SENDING PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

ELW # 270

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Public Domain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.**

**Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"
*(end)***

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

–J. S. Bach



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