

First Sunday After Christmas

December 31st 2023 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven. *Psalm 148:13*

Opening Song

Shout To The Lord

**My Jesus, my Savior - Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

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Ministry Spotlight *Share*

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: **The promised Messiah came! We celebrate the Advent of His coming. Emmanuel is God with us, and Christ will come again! He is the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all! God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: **All the time!**

Pastor: God is good!

People: **Let us come to Him then with an honest heart to worship Him in spirit and truth.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We confess our need of forgiveness, and that God's forgiveness is the gift that leads to newness of life. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger, died on a cross, and risen from the grave: All to redeem us from sin, death, the devil, and our sinful self. As Paul wrote in Romans 3 "This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance God had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

For a brief moment I abandoned You, but with great compassion I will gather you. *Isaiah 54:7*

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who love us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and world.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Compassionate One, my heart takes comfort in Your love made flesh. You hang with me in all things. Forgive me when I imagine You have abandoned me. You gathered me in with siblings in Christ who share my new birth into Your family. May Christ who is Himself my good hope continue to strengthen my words and actions. Amen.

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. ⁶ And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

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

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

People: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

People: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Song

Jesus Messiah

**He became sin who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross - love so amazing, love so amazing.
Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**His body the bread, His blood the wine - broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Love so amazing, love so amazing.
Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.
All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.**

**Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.**

Sermon/Watchword

Talk --- New, Knew, Next

Pr Cole

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.

Offering Song

Emmanuel

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel - His Name is called Emmanuel
Emmanuel: God with us, revealed in us! His Name is called Emmanuel**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel - His Name is called Emmanuel
Emmanuel: God with us, revealed in us! His Name is called Emmanuel**

Prayers of the Church

Pray

*The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church,
the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.*

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: Amen.

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People_(sung): **Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes, in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words Of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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**

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Nunc Dimittis and Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now Lord, let your servants depart in peace, according to your Word. For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and will be, world without end. Amen.

Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung)**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, our Savior came in the fullness of time. Rejoice!

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

Closing Song

Hark The Herald Angels Sing / King Of Heaven

Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye 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

continued on next page

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace - hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings - risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by - born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth - born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

King of Heaven come down - King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come - King of Heaven rise up
Who can stand against us - You are strong to save
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Interlude
Oh oh

Christ by highest heaven adored - Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come - offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild He lays His glory by - born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth - born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King the newborn King

King of Heaven come down - King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come - King of Heaven rise up
Who can stand against us - You are strong to save
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come down - King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day - King of Heaven come

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in acknowledgement that the year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going forward in faith, from Ron and JoAnne O'Neill.

The Mission of the Month for January is our Mitten Tree.

The January Newsletter is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library.

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.
Thursday 6:00pm Knowing and Experiencing God

Worship at Zion

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel Service
Sunday 8:00am Worship
9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship
11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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