

The Second Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, January 5th 2025 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. *Psalm 147:1*

Opening Song

King Of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father - praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory - Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father - praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory - Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born - then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father - praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory - Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings
Praise forever to the King of kings

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: *(John 1:1-4)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known.

People: God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time.

Pastor: God is good!

(Romans 3:19-26)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

People: But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation or sacrifice & intercession by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show God's righteousness at the present time, so that God might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Thank you Jesus.

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

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

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and give His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Daily Text

The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of trouble; He protects those who take refuge in Him.

Nahum 1:7

So do not throw away your confidence.

Hebrews 10:35

Let us pray:

People: Your strong hold on me, Lord, gives me confidence to face life's troubles. Still, it is easy for me to let troubles overcome me, pin me down, and paralyze me. Besieged by troubles, I come to You, my stronghold, for refuge. Give me courage to rise up, throw off fear, and take action to help and to love others. Amen.

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the Lord: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' ⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ "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 keeps his flock.' ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² 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 be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord."

The Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! ¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. ¹⁴ He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs

swiftly. ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? ¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow. ¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ 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, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Song

Noel

**Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore**

Noel Noel

Come and see what God has done

Noel Noel

**The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel**

**Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore**

Noel Noel

Come and see what God has done

Noel Noel

**The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel**

Instrumental

Noel Noel

Come and see what God has done

Noel Noel

**The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel**

God Has Made Known To Us The Mystery Of His Will,
According To His Good Pleasure That He Set Forth In Christ

Offering Song

I Wonder As I Wander

**I wonder as I wander, out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

**When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
The promise of the ages it then did recall.**

**If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause He was the king.**

**I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

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.**

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

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: 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, God has made known to us His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing 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**

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**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

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.

The 2025 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

The Mission of the Month for January is our Mitten Tree – holding mittens, gloves, hats and scarves which will be distributed to those who need them by our Jericho Road Ministries food program. Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this mission.

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. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Monday **1:00pm** Bible Study

Wednesday **6:00pm** G.I.F.T.

Worship at Zion

Wednesday **7:00pm** Worship

Saturday **5:00pm** Chapel

Sunday **8:00am** Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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