

The Second Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, January 4th 2026 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

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who 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 man 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,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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 the mercy seat 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

I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. *Psalm 40:1*

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." *John 5:7-6*

Let us pray:

People: Thank You, Father God, for listening to me. You hear my cries for help. Waiting is not easy. But the blessing of waiting is drawing near to You in prayer, meditation, and singing praises. I trust that You will minister to my deepest needs in Your perfect timing. How I love being Your beloved child. Amen.

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:4-14

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'" 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 as you are able 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 1:9-18

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

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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Sermon/Watchword *Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Farber

Jesus Our Brother – The Revealer Of The Father

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.
Shalom. Shalom.

People: **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

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God

**I sing the mighty pow'r of God
That made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at His command
And all the stars obey**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food
He formed the creatures with His word
And then pronounced them good**

**Lord how Thy wonders are displayed
Where'er I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread
Or gaze upon the sky**

**There's not a plant or flow'r below
But makes Thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempest blow
By order from Thy throne**

**While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care
And everywhere that man can be
Thou God art present there**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing
For Christ is our Redeemer
The Lord of heaven our King**

**O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice
And in His holy presence
Eternally rejoice**

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 2026 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.*

Worship at Zion

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

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