

Our Mission

“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

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Prelude

“The Faces of Jesus – Some Children See Him”

Gene Fougner

Hutson/Burt

Welcome

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHERING

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Litany

L: May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all of creation

C: Be born in us today.

L: May the love that brings us healing

C: Be born in us today.

L: May the love that overcomes hatred

C: Be born in us today.

L: May the love that forgives and renews

C: Be born in us today.

L: May the love that brings the blessings of peace

C: Be born in us today.

L: May that Peace now be the gift we share with each other and the world. Amen

Opening Hymn

Hymn #289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Performed by the ALCM Virtual Choir. Used with permission

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day

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

Children's Message

WORD

The Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

With this magnificent poem about the love of God the Father, the care of God the Shepherd, and the plenty and joy of life in the church as if it were a watered garden, we celebrate the birth of Christ among us. In the sacraments we “walk by brooks of water,” and we know the fullness of “the grain, the wine, and the oil.”

⁷Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear 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 a flock.”

¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They 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 become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
¹³Then 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.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord

Gospel Reading

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Tricia Lowe

"The Other Wiseman"

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry VanDyke and J. R Flanagan. Public Domain.

Hymn of the Day

Hymn #292

"Love Has Come" (vs. 1 & 3)

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 has come and never will leave us! Love is life ever
lasting 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

P: Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. May our light shine with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel isolated, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness especially those affected by the viral pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Please take this time to offer any other prayers either silently or aloud.

P: You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Offering:

P: We give thanks for the offerings that we have received this week in the mail, online and in person. These gifts make it possible for us to continue to be the church in the world even when we can't meet in our sanctuary. If you are worshiping with us today and would like to make a donation, please go to our website homepage and click the online giving link.

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, to show the world your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you with all good and keep you from all evil.

May the Lord give light to your heart with loving wisdom,

And be gracious to you with eternal knowledge.

May the loving countenance of the Lord be upon you for eternal peace.

C: Amen.

Sending

Hymn #677

"This Little Light of Mine" (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; (3x)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

All around the world, I'm goin'a let it shine; (3x)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; (3x)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C: Thanks be to God!

Prelude

"In Excelsis Deo"

Cathy Namock, organ

Lee Ellis, based on an Old French Carol



As a congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

*Alis Seim
Arlene Meder
Ben Stricker
Bonnie Kain
Carol Hotten
Chuck Lynch
Chris Spahr*

*Deanna McDaniel
Geri Cottrell
Gwen Savage
Helen Morton
Janice Zimbelman
Karen Roush*

*Kat Harley-Mays
Len Warne
Linda Walkoff
Marilyn Murphy
Marty Watkins
Mary Austin*

*Nancy Nimocks
Pam MacCleary
Ramona Walker
Ron Kovara
Ruth Martindale
Wayne Theobald*

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Meg Northrup Jim VanScoy Kenneth Lindsay deployed Kuwait – friend of Carl Schulze

Family Members and Friends

*Bill Deffenbaugh – stepfather of Kimberly Goats
Bill & Ruth Garrett – friends of Kimberly Goats
Bob Whitney – friend of Emmanuel
Buel McCoy – father of Wendy Woolley
Carol & Rita Kuenne – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Cheryl Midel – aunt of Wendy Woolley
Charles Dean – great nephew of Gail Kenny
Chris Vettore – daughter of Ron Kovara
Connie Miller & son Trevor – friends of Carl Schulze
Cris & Susie – brother & sister of Clara Farmer
Dawn Byars – stepsister of Kimberly Goats
Dan Lowe – brother-in-law of Pastor Tricia
Don Jones – friend of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Doug Bayle – nephew of Phyllis Pohlman
Doug Becker – friend of Jim McIntyre
Edie Hales – mother of Cheryl Miller
Edward Kelly – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Grant – grandson of Dan & Carol Cwach
Jack Gregory – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Joann Harlib – mother of Scott Harlib
Joshua Diebel – stepbrother of Tawnya Worthington
Julie Ward – daughter of Chuck & Kathy Guenther
Kelly Smith – daughter of Bobbe Serena Wayman
Kris Franklin – friend of Wendy Woolley
Leroy Goats – father-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Linda Vallner – sister of Ron Kovara
Marie – Clara Farmer's son's mother-in-law
Mark Erickson – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Mark Kovara – son of Ron Kovara
Mary Leavy – mother of Kathie Siggs
Merle MacCleary – father of Pam MacCleary*

*Miranda & Brad Rebholz – granddaughter and grandson of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Phil Miller – friend of Emmanuel
Rev. Paul Meier – former pastor of Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rich, Carol, daughter of Rachel & Granddaughter of Audrey, friend so Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rosemary – neighbor of Mary Wakimoto
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Sarah Mulligan – daughter of Carol Wade
Star Campbell – friend of Bob Saul
Stefanie O'Donnell – daughter of Shelby & Carol Tate
Trisha Galindo – daughter of Gary & Jean Kiser
Wayne Wallingford – brother of Sheila Smilgis*

Someone is in the church office weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but the church doors will be locked. Please knock upon arriving or call first. Please note that we are now requesting that everyone wear masks when they enter the church building. Don't be surprised when Mary and Pastor Tricia put theirs on when you come in! With the rise in cases of the virus in our community, we want to make sure we use all safety precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of January is Horses With Heart, whose mission statement is to provide a safe and enjoyable equine experience for people with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities and At-Risk youth, encouraging each rider to develop independent skills at his/her own level of ability. Riding develops self-awareness, builds confidence, and improves self-discipline. It also relaxes, strengthens and tones muscle, increases joint mobility and improves posture, balance and coordination. Through horseback riding, students gain a sense of freedom and awareness of their bodies that can't be duplicated in conventional therapy.

Ministry Team Coordinators and Committee Chairs, don't forget that your annual report is due the first few days of January. We hope to get the reports mailed to everyone by January 14 so that there will be plenty of time for folks to read them to be ready for the annual congregational meeting on Saturday, January 30.

Aluminum Cans – Emmanuel is still collecting cans. Please bring to the church and deposit in the container held in the dumpster area.

Food Pantry – At this time, the food pantry prefers monetary donations so they can purchase the needed items. Donations can be mailed to the church.

Thrivent Member Action Cards – Each member is allocated two card per years of \$250.00 each. If you have not used your action cards, please consider applying for a card to support the Interfaith Meal.

Interfaith Meal – Next meal will be January 8. If you are able to help, please let Mary Jensen know.