

Mary of Magdala, ECC Dec 27, 2020

Celebrating the First Sunday after Christmas: The Presentation

Preparations include participants preparing their home altars with a lit candle, and the food and drink to be remotely shared. If you have bells, please bring to ring!

Prelude: Community and Christmas Pictures

Entrance Opening Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!..

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved..

Greeting – *Pastor Jane*

In the name of Amma/Abba God, of Jesus both Divine and Human, and Sophia Spirit of Wisdom. **ALL: Amen**

May God, the blessed Holy Three, be with you
We lift up our hearts to our Self-Revealing God
Let us give thanks for this wondrous gift of Life

ALL: And also with you.
ALL: We lift up our hearts.
**ALL: With hearts and minds we give thanks and
praise to our God.**

Good afternoon! At this sacred time, we join with all the heavenly bodies, the communion of saints, to dance and sing with a retelling of the story of the union of God and humanity entangled in embrace. Our journey to follow Jesus begins now, with the divine becoming one with humanity, and humanity becoming one with divinity, forever.

Penitential Rite – *Pastor Jane*

At this sacred celebration, may we increase our
faith and hope through Emmanuel:

Wonderful Counselor, born through Mary,
becomes one of us in our joys and sorrows
ALL: Wonderful Counselor, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, Alpha and Omega, you who have
forever gathered us, fill us with Grace and heal
our weaknesses.
ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Emmanuel, divine and human, gather us together
as one family to praise you
ALL: Jesus, have mercy.

Jesus, human and divine, empty and full, you
revealed yourself as the timeless answer bring us
to wholeness and peace this day.
ALL: Amen



Opening Prayer – *Pastor Jane*

We praise you, gracious God, for the joy of your unfailing embrace through Christ Jesus, your Word become flesh. Let us embrace the life of Christ that enlivens us and lives deep within us.

Help us to open our hearts to feel you, know you, and embrace you without reservation and

throughout eternity. In this way, we see the Divine Reality in all creation.

We ask this through Jesus the Christ
ALL: Amen

Pastor Rosean:

Please join in while on mute as Bill Smith leads us in the song of praise. Feel free to ring your bells!

Gloria – Mass of the Joyful Heart

Refrain

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will. (Amen.)

1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great
glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

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Liturgy of the Word

First Reading from Colossians 3:12-17 – *Lector Jim Berry*

Because you are God's chosen ones holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another – forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since as members of one body, you have been called to

that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is dwell in you and instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from our hearts in psalm, hymns, and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Saviour, giving thanks to God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 96: 1-10

Scriptural Response - Lector Matt Chavez

Our response is: Sing to our God a new song. **ALL: Sing to Our God a new song!**

Sing to our God a new song!
Sing to our God, all the earth!
Sing to our God, bless God's Name!
Proclaim God's salvation day after day;
ALL: Sing to Our God a new song!

Sing to Our God a new song!
Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.
Our God is great, most worthy of praise,
Our God is to be revered above all gods.
ALL: Sing to Our God a new song!

The gods of the nations are nothing, they don't exist –But Our God created the universe.
In God's presence are splendor and majesty,

In God's sanctuary power and beauty.
ALL: Sing to Our God a new song!

Pay tribute to Our God, you tribes of the people,
Pay tribute to the God of glory and power.
Pay tribute to the glorious Name of our God;
Bring out the offering and carry it into God's courts.
Worship Our God majestic in holiness,
Tremble in God's presence, all the earth!
Say among the nations
"Our God reigns supreme!"
ALL: Sing to Our God a new song!

Gospel Acclamation

Wonderful Counselor (please join in with Bill while muted)

1. For unto us a child is born,
A son is given.
Come, Holy Spirit, come
Father this Child.
The Virgin Mary shall be his mother,
And His name shall be called Emmanuel.

Refrain:
Sing Alleluia to the Wonderful Counselor,
Sing Alleluia to the mighty God.
Sing Alleluia to the Father forever and
Sing Alleluia to the true Prince of peace.

Lyrics and music: John Michael Talbot; b. 1954.
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Gospel: Luke 2: 22-32, 36-38

Pastor Rosean

Our God is with you.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke .

And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to be presented to God as it is written in the law of God. "Every male that opens the womb shall be called hold to God, and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of God, a pair of turtle doves, or two

ALL: And also with you.
ALL: Glory to you, O God

young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, who was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Nd it had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of God. And inspired the Spirit, Simeon



came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God and said,

Sovereign now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

For my eye has seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

And there was a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age having lived with her husband seven years, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Good News of Salvation.

ALL: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ

Homily - *Pastor Jane*

Women's Creed

Pastor Rosean:

In love and in light, we profess our faith together:

All together on mute:

We believe in God who is creator and nurturer of all.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who is our love, our hope, and our light.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of Wisdom Sophia, who energizes and guides us to build caring communities and to challenge oppression, exploitation, and injustices.

We believe that God loves us passionately and forgives us everything.

We believe that we are radiant images of God who calls us to live fully, love tenderly and serve generously.

We believe in the communion of saints, our beloved friends, who support us on life's journey.

We believe in the partnership and equality of women and men in our church and world.

We believe that all are one in the Heart of God. We believe that women's liberation is human liberation.

Here we dwell in loving relationships. Here we live our prophetic call of Gospel equality. Amen.

—Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck, ARCWP
CREED: Taken from "The Friends in Faith" and shared by Joan Meehan

Prayers of the People -

Pastor Jane

As we prepare to celebrate this day honoring the presentation of Jesus in the temple, we send our prayers of thanksgiving to our God

Lector Matt Chavez

Our response is: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers.

ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers



In gratitude for the spiritual nourishment and inspiration we receive from our copastors and one another in this community of faith, we pray...

ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers.

In gratitude for our lives and knowing that we are not alone, and that you journey with us and that we journey together with opportunities in the service of others, we pray...

ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers.

In gratitude for your loving and sustaining Presence in our lives, we pray.

ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers

I now invite you to share your prayers so that we may pray in community with you. If you feel comfortable, you could press the space bar and say your prayer, OR you could type the prayer into the chat box.

(Matt to read each prayer on "chat")we pray **ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers**

And for all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray: **ALL: God of generosity and love, receive our prayers**

Pastor Jane

God of Generosity and Love, as your unique creations we thank you for all that we are and all that we do in service to You. Through Christ our brother, Amen

Sign of Peace – *Pastor Jane*

Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our failings and doubts, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us peace and unity with your kin-dom for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Pastor Rosean

Let us all unmute and go to 'gallery view' on our screens and share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Preparation of Bread and Wine - *Pastor Rosean*

Blessed are You, Lover of Humanity. Through your endless goodness we have these gifts of our community of time, talent, and treasure to offer, the work of human hands gratefully given.

May our offerings become instruments of your peace and sustain the mission of God's people. May we continue to give as we are called and able. **ALL: Amen**

Offertory Song – *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

What Child is This

1. 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?

Refrain
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;



Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate

Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.)

Text: 87 87 with refrain; Bramley and Stainer's *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871; William C. Dix, 1837–1898.
Music: Trad. English melody, 16th cent.; Bramley and Stainer's *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871;
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Our Celebration of Food

Pastor Jane

The Love of God be with you all.
Life up your hearts
Let us give thanks

All: And also with you.

All: We lift them up to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us welcome God and God's creative spirit.
God has called us to gather around these tables
this evening, knowing that all tables are God's
table. I remind you of the theology of Ronald
Rolheiser, "The incarnation began with Jesus and
it has never stopped . . . God takes on flesh so that
every home becomes a church, every child
becomes the Christ-child, and all food and drink
become a sacrament. God's many faces are now

everywhere, in flesh, tempered and turned down,
so that our human eyes can see him."

So... let our homes and our hearts be a dwelling
place for God. May we see Christ in one another
as kin together in God's family. And may we trust
that the food before us is sacrament. God is
present to each of us, and God's grace is abundant
and in our midst.

(All Join in the Blessing)

Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this food before us. May we offer our gratitude for all the ways you nurture us into wholeness. We bless you God, with our gratitude.

Pastor Jane

We give you thanks for the mystery of the myriad
of ways you show up in our lives as both Creator
and Creation. We thank you for all that is, and for
the Breath of Life that is You throughout the
cosmos. We see You in one another, and
throughout creation. We share your Breath with
one another, with our ancestors, and with all
those yet to be. Even in these new and
challenging times, You are bringing to birth
through us a new heaven joined with a new earth,
like the early followers of Jesus.

and gathered as one in You that we may become
bright Lights of Your love in the world.

Today we remember a story of your Eternal Word,
Jesus, who on the night before he died gathered
at a table with his family and friends. That night
he took bread, he took wine, for they were the
food and drink on the table before him. He
blessed them and shared them with all those who
were present. He told them that his love for
them was boundless because your love for
creation is boundless. Let us take the food
before us, and bless it. Let it be as a blessing to
our bodies, that our bodies may be a blessing to
your world.

O Sacred One, who blesses us and calls us
Beloved, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us
gathered around tables throughout your world



God of all Kin-ship, You have made this food which feeds us. May we be open to the ways you connect to us. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen

The Prayer of Jesus–

Pastor Rosean

Knowing that we are in Christ and called to be the Body of Christ in the world, we pray with trust the prayer of Jesus:

(All to Join in on mute)

Our Amma/Abba God in heaven, holy be your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and

**deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
All Amen.**

Edited, modern 'Our Father' provided by Trinity Lutheran Church

Reception for Spiritual Communion

Pastor Jane

Let us open our hearts and our hands in prayer, knowing that in this prayer we both give to and receive from our God.

All: Jesus, our hearts are Your Tabernacle. You live in us. You love in us. Your Light shines through us. Come now, and visit us with Your grace. Make us to be more like You. May we receive Your fullness in this

food as You desire. May we become Your Body in the world today. Amen.

Our homes and our hearts are a dwelling place for God. The food before us is sacrament, and God's grace is abundant and in our midst. May it be the healing Light of health for our minds and bodies.

Please spend a moment now, receiving God's grace as you eat and drink what is on your table.

Sacred Music - Instrumental by Bill Smith

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Rosean

Let us pray.

Pastor Jane

Ever Faithful, Compassionate God, this season we celebrate the sacred feast of the birth of Jesus, Incarnation of God into space and time.

Jesus wants to stay in human form through us, his disciples. May we offer to those around us that

which Jesus freely gives, divine Love and complete acceptance of humanity.

We ask this through Jesus the Christ.

ALL: Amen



Blessing

Pastor Jane

God is with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Pastor Rosean

Bowing our heads at this Christmas season celebration, let us ask for God's blessing.

Pastor Jane:

May God fill our hearts with joyful awe as we are swaddled and embraced by eternal Love:

In the name of Amma/Abba God, the Word Made Flesh, and Sophia, our wisdom and guide.

All: Amen

Dismissal – *Pastor Rosean*

Go in joy, spreading the Love of the season.

All: Thanks be to God

Closing Song - *(please join in with Bill while muted – Join in with your bells!)*

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy! Let there be joy!
Let there be joy!
Let there be joy to the world!

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;

Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4–9; Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759;
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