FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 1, 2023
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE — Steven Phillips

PRELUDE — *Song of a New World* (Connor Landers, French Horn) — Richard Bissell

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.
Praise God for the good news of Jesus.
Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.
Praise God who is present with us still.
God's glory shines in heaven and on earth.
Praise God!

*** HYMN 401 (VERSES 1, 2 & 4)** — *Here in This Place* — Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Floyd Churn

Ever-present God,
you are the Savior of all our distress.
In all the ways we hurt,
and all the ways we hurt others,
in all the ways we feel neglected,
and all the ways we neglect others,
in all the ways we cry out
and all the ways we cause others to cry,
you are with us, comforting us and calling us back to you.
In your love, redeem us once again.
Renew our faith and refresh our spirits
so that we may enter this new year with hope and expectation.
(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* **SONG OF JOY** *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* Taizé

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria! Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God,
Alleluia, alleluia!

* **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ANTHEM *Prayer for Peace* Text attributed to St. Francis
Music by Benjamin Harlan

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-18 Page 966

SERMON *In the Beginning — and Then* Rev. Churn

***SONG OF FAITH** *All My Fountains Are in You* Tomlin, Nockels and Carson

Verse 1

This dry and desert land,
tell myself to keep walking on.
Hear something up ahead,
Water falling like a song.
An everlasting stream,
Your river carries me home.

Verse 2

A flood for my soul,
A well that never will run dry.
I've rambled on my own
Never believing I would find
An everlasting stream.
Your river carries me home,
Let it flow, let it flow.

Chorus

Open the windows, come living water,
All my fountains are in You.
You're strong like a river, your love is running through.
All my fountains are in You.

Bridge

Come on and rain down on us,
Rain down on us, Lord! (3 times)

Chorus

Ending

All my fountains are in You!
All my fountains are in You!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Steven Phillips

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From the Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving
sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ
to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God's love.

*** HYMN 157 (VERSES 1, 2, 3 & 5)** *I Danced in the Morning* LORD OF THE DANCE

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. **(Refrain)**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. **(Refrain)**

They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. **(Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Churn

POSTLUDE *Lord of the Dance* Steven Phillips

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