



Worship with Communion

The First Sunday after Christmas

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on December 27
go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868. Music: *ST LOUIS*, Lewis Henry Redner, 1868.

Celebrant Light looked down and saw darkness:

People "I will go there," said Light.

Celebrant Peace looked down and saw war:

People "I will go there," said Peace.

Celebrant Love looked down and saw hatred:

People "I will go there," said Love.

Celebrant So the Lord of Light... the Prince of Peace... the King of Love...
came down, and crept in beside us.

All The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld his
glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full
of grace and truth. AMEN!

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **AMEN!**

♪ **Gloria, Gloria**

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

Words: Trad, adapt Taizé Community Music: Jacques Berthier ©1979 Les Presses de Taizé/GIA Publ. All rights reserved.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN!**

First Lesson

Reader A reading of Isaiah chapter 61, verse 10, through chapter 62, verse 3.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 147, verses 13 through 21.

All Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, who has strengthened the bars of your gates, who has blessed your children within you. For the Lord has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. The Lord sends out a command to the earth, and this word runs very swiftly. The Lord gives snow like wool and scatters hoarfrost like ashes and hail like bread-crumbs; who can stand against such cold? The Lord sends forth the word and melts them, blowing with the wind and the waters flow. The Lord declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgements to Israel. The Lord has not done so to any other nation; to them these judgements have not been revealed. Hallelujah!

Epistle

Reader A reading of Galatians chapter 3, verses 23 through 25 and chapter 4 verses 4 through 7.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 1. 1-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.

People **Jesus, Emmanuel, hear our prayer.**

Reader Christ for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

People **Jesus, Lord of Light, hear our prayer.**

Reader Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

People **Jesus, Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Reader Christ, before whom the magi knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

People **Jesus, King of Love, hear our prayer.**

Reader Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

People **Jesus, Word become flesh, hear our prayer.**

Reader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

People **Jesus, God with us, hear our prayer.**

Reader Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, and fill our lives.

All **Savior Jesus, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to God for ever and ever. AMEN!**

Reader Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

People AMEN!

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 from angel's bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
 above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
 beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
 and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
 O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!
 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling,
 and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt. Music: *CAROL*, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord** Setting: from *Deutsche Mass*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr Richard Proulx (b 1937).

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **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, for ever and ever. AMEN!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

♪ Lamb of God

*Setting: from *Deutsche Mass*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr Richard Proulx (b 1937).*

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Mysterious God, we thank you for feeding us with yourself, and for making yourself known to us in the holy child, Jesus the Christ. Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit—that same Spirit which was in Jesus—so that we may help bring your Light, Peace, and Love to all the earth. We pray in the Name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN!

Blessing

Celebrant May you live this week with an eternal perspective.

Live as if God has come among us, because God has.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant Live as if God has been revealed to you and called you to love and do good works, because God has.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant Live in anticipation of the reconciliation of all creation to God, because it is coming.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant Live as if your life depended on God's grace, because it does.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Words: Medieval Latin; tr/prph John Mason Neale, 1853, alt. Music: *IN DULCI JUBILO*, 14th century German carol.

Sending

Celebrant Go forth bearing the Light of Christ to the world! Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

December's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.

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