

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Northwest Washington Synod / ELCA



Artwork: He Qi © 2021 All rights Reserved

✚ GATHERING ✚

PRELUDE: In Dulci Jubilo

David Buice, organ (Faith, Seattle)

Johann Michael Bach

WELCOME

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Bishop & Synod Staff

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Holy God, we confess our sin before you.

We replace compassion with competition.

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✚ In Christ your sins are forgiven, and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard On High

French Carol

Betsy McGregor, piano; Pr. Gretchen Mertes, guitar; Sydney Spray, vocals (Our Redeemer's, Seattle)

GREETING

Bishop & Synod Staff

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CAROL: God Rest Ye

18th Century English Carol

Lacey Brown, Claire Buswell, Carl Dahmer (Church of the Apostles, Seattle)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pr. John Guthridge & Kiddos from Edison, Bow

We praise you, O God, for water. / **We praise you, O God, for water.**

We need water to drink. / **We need water to drink.**

We need water to wash. / **We need water to wash.**

We need water to grow. / **We need water to grow.**

We praise you, O God, for water. / **We praise you, O God, for water.**

We praise you, O God, for baptism. / **We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

We praise you, O God, for your Spirit. / **We praise you, O God, for your Spirit.**

We praise you, O God, for water. / **We praise you, O God, for water.**

Amen, with water. / **Amen, with water.**

CAROL: What Child Is This?

Text: William C. Dix; Tune: English Carol

Brody Newcomer, vocals; Andrea Snyder, ukulele (Holy Trinity, Mercer Island)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

June Bendickson (Salt House, Kirkland)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your love. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Wade/Oakeley/Galbraith

Kim Saunders, piano; Jason Bendickson, guitar, bass, vocals, programming, John Gillen, drums; Susan Wolbrecht, organ; Sarah McQuade, vocals; Alissa Brambilla, vocals; Kris Moor, vocals (Salt House, Kirkland)

✝ **WORD** ✝

FIRST READING

Beiza Melaku (Bethel Ethiopian, Seattle – in Amharic)

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Sears/Willis

Michael Nutting, piano; Congregational Choir (University Lutheran Church, Seattle)

PSALM 98

Friends at Josephine Caring Community, Stanwood

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.
The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

CAROL: Personent Hodie

Deacon Nan Beth Walton, piano

arr. by Gregg Sewell

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

Tamar Haddad (Christ, Ferndale - in Arabic)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CAROL: Send Us A Sign

Gretchen Mertes

Pr. Gretchen Mertes (Our Redeemer's, Seattle)

GODLY PLAY MESSAGE: Based on Luke 2:1-20

Joy Studer (Ebenezer, Lake Stevens) and Friends Throughout the Synod

CAROL: Song of the Stable

Dudley-Smith/Hillesland

Pr. Ivar Hillesland (Church of the Apostles, Seattle)

APOSTLES' CREED

Pr. Yonsu Kim (Reborn Fellowship, Shoreline – in Korean)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

We invite you to make a generous gift to your local congregation. If you wish to make an additional donation to our NW Washington Synod Bishop's Caring Fund, please do so here: www.lutheransnw.org/donate

OFFERING CAROL: Silent Night

Mohr/Young/Gruber

Christoph, Mattias and Lukas Hofstetter, violins (Holy Trinity, Mercer Island)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Staff from Grace, Des Moines

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Your Spirit calls your church to rejoice in Christ's birth. As we gather at the manger, help us see your face in all babies needing comfort and care. Equip the church in the nurture and encouragement of all children. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The rocks and streams proclaim your praise. Attune us to the joyful sounds and groaning of your creation. Stir us to tend the earth wisely, that the whole earth may dwell in abundance and peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your messengers declare your joy to the world. Embolden leaders and nations to make your justice and peace known throughout the earth. Uphold justice advocates and social service providers who risk their safety to help others (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You abide with your people in times of trouble. Accompany families and children who have nowhere to turn. Strengthen this congregation and local ministries in their care for those fleeing danger, abuse, or neglect. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your grace and mercy extend to all. Give comfort to those who mourn, and assure them of the peace you have granted those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

CAROL: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Jon Lackey, Tenor and James Jelasic, Pianist (Peace Lutheran, Seattle)

LORD'S PRAYER

Musicians from Holy Spirit, Kirkland

✙ SENDING ✙

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty and loving Trinity, ✙ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING CAROL: Echo Christmas Joy

arr. by Craig Curry

Choir (Our Saviour's, Arlington)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Postlude on Mendelssohn (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

arr. by David Willcocks

William Bryant (Faith, Redmond)

PERMISSIONS

All liturgy, music, lyrics in this worship service are covered by the following copyright licenses for publishing and streaming:

Liturgy: Copyright ©2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed by permission under license no. SAS003678.

Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Music:

In Dulci Jubilo: Johann Michael Bach. Public Domain.

Angels We Have Heard on High: French Carol. Public Domain.

God Rest Ye: 18th Century English Carol. Public Domain.

What Child is This: Text: William C. Dix, Tune: English Ballad. Public Domain.

O Come All Ye Faithful: Text: John F. Wade; Music: Frederick Oakeley; Arranged by Dan Galbraith; This arrangement © 2005 by PraiseCharts. Used by permission under CCLI License no. 226212.

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear: Text: Edmund H. Sears; Tune: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Public Domain.

Personent Hodie: Piae Cantiones, 1582. Arr. by Gregg Sewell; Lorenz Publishing 1999. Used by permission under CCLI License no. 226212.

Send us a Sign: Gretchen Mertes. Used by permission.

Song of the Stable: Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: Ivar Hillesland; 1980 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission under OneLicense no. A-706784.

Silent Night: Text: Joseph Mohr; Translation: John F Young; Tune: Franz Gruber; Public Domain.

Gesu Gambino: Arr. by Pietro Yon. Public Domain.

The Lord's Prayer: Traditional Text. Music: D. Haas. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense no. A-706784.

Echo Christmas Joy: Arr. by Craig Curry. Published by Jubilate Music Group. Used by permission under CCLI License no. 226212.

Postlude on "Mendelssohn" (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing): Composer: David Willcocks; Copyright: © Oxford University Press 1995. Used by permission under OneLicense no. A-706784.