

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3rd 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude "Carols Sing"

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

Come, hear the Christmas news: Jesus Christ is born!

Come, sing the Christmas story: Jesus Christ is born!

Come, worship the Christmas child: Jesus Christ is born!

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

*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!*

Call to Confession

Beloved of God, our Christmas season continues! As we move through this time of joy and peace, may we not forget the ways that our sin can distance us from God. Let us confess together our shortcomings and misdeeds, our actions and inactions, so that we might stand unashamed before the newborn king, Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Holy God,
forgive us when we fail to live
in the good news of your Christmas story:
when we hear the choir sing, "Rejoice!"
but we do not join their chorus;
when we know the angels say, "do not fear,"
yet fear is all we can muster;
when we see a star in the east,
but we turn away from its light.
Forgive us, O Lord,
of the sins of our lives
and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt.
Convict us with the cry of a child from a manger,
and free us to try again.
In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that our sin does not have the final word. God will turn our mourning into joy; God will comfort us; God will give us gladness for sorrow. Friends, hear and believe this good news:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, we are listening for your gracious word, made flesh for us in Jesus Christ. Call us to come and see where he leads, teaching us to believe in his name. Help us to do as he tells us so our lives might be signs of his glory. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 147:12-20

¹²Worship the Lord, Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion! ¹³Because God secures the bars on your gates, God blesses the children you have there. ¹⁴God establishes your borders peacefully. God fills you full with the very best wheat. ¹⁵God issues his command to the earth—God's word speeds off fast! ¹⁶God spreads snow like it was wool; God scatters frost like it was ashes; ¹⁷God throws his hail down like crumbs—who can endure God's freezing cold? ¹⁸Then God issues his word and melts it all away! God makes his winds blow; the water flows again. ¹⁹God proclaims his word to Jacob; his statutes and rules to Israel. ²⁰God hasn't done that with any other nation; those nations have no knowledge of God's rules. Praise the Lord!

Anthem "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Second Reading John 1:1, 10-18

¹In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

¹⁰The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. ¹¹The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.

¹²But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, ¹³born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; ¹⁷as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Charge & Benediction

Blessing “He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.*

Postlude “That Boy-Child of Mary”

BLANTYRE

Join us immediately following the service broadcast for a congregational meeting on [Zoom](#) and/or Facebook Live (11:40 am, 1.3.21).

This week's liturgist is Bill Fountain