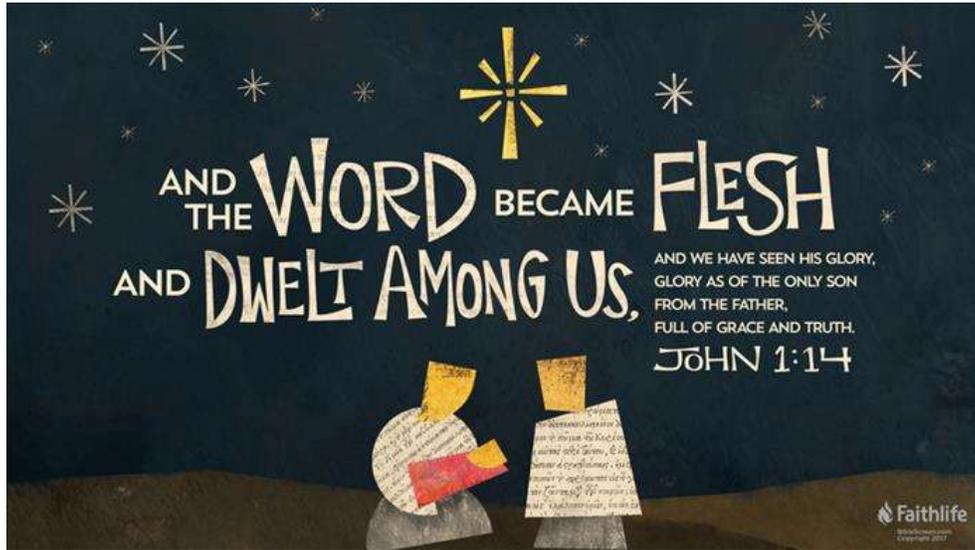


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLMAR, MN
January 2, 2022**



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*Please rise as you are able
Please join in speaking/singing **bolded** text

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

***Opening Words**

Let us sing:

Praise be to God!

Who dared to take on human flesh and dwell among us.

Praise be to God!

Who did not turn back in the face of evil and death.

Praise be to God!

Who continues to dance through our lives even now.

Let all that have breath sing praise to God.

***Hymn #143 (GG)**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Words by James Montgomery & Salisbury Hymn book - Music by Henry Thomas Smart
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**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
You, who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship
Christ, the new-born king!**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship
Christ, the new-born king!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen his natural star:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship
Christ, the new-born king!**

**All creation,
join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship
Christ, the new-born king!**

Prayer of Confession

**O God, You who are always doing a new thing,
we confess that we sometimes close windows
against the fresh air of new ideas,
against the noise of other people's worries,
against the winds of change.**

**God of every place and time,
we confess that we often draw the curtains
against people who are different,
against world news or community concerns.**

**Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,
our shuttered churches,
the security systems in our hearts.
Open up our lives,
and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

“There is a Longing”

Words & Music by Anne Quigly

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**There is a longing in our hearts,
O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts
for love we only find in you, our God.
(repeat)**

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18

Message

“God Revealed in Word”

Rev. Scott L. Thompson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our God,
we are glad, some of us,
that Christmas is past,
others can’t wait for it to come again,
but whatever it has left behind
may it not just be the wrapping paper
and the cards, the memories of
happy times spent together or alone,
difficult times spent likewise
with other people or on our own.

Though the crib scenes will soon be
packed away for another year,
and the baby Jesus put back into his box,
may we take with us into the new year
the deep truth that the stories and carols
were meant to reveal, and sometimes obscure:
that we are not alone, for you are with us.

The eternal one has become mortal;
the Potter has a body of clay;
the Story-teller has written herself into the plot;
the Director has a bit part in the film;
the Word has become flesh and lives among us.

In the light of this incredible claim,
we offer prayer to you, the God-in-our-midst,
for all who feel alone, and who desperately
need someone to walk alongside them.

You came into the world that you had made,
O God, and the world did not know you.

We pray for any in our world today
who are not recognized for who they are:
those whose talents have not been nurtured;
whose smile has not been returned;
those whose face does not fit, or whose color
does not blend in with those around them;
those who are treated, for any reason,
as anything less than a beloved child of God.

You came to your own people
and even they would not accept you.
We pray for those for whom Christmas
and New Year are not the happy family time
we expect them to be:
those who were on their own,
and longed for company;
those who were lonely in a crowded room.
May they know that you were with them,
still are and always will be.

God, you came in Jesus as life-giving Word,
and as Light for the world's darkness.
May we who dare to call ourselves Christians
speak with his words of grace
and shine out with the light of his love.

**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.**

Offering Prayer

God of actions,
not good intentions,
we want our commitment here
to be different from our New Year's resolutions,
easily made and quickly forgotten.
So help us, along with the our financial gifts,
to dedicate ourselves to the long haul
of discipleship,
with its ups and downs,
its failures and successes,
and, above all,
a determination to go on
growing and learning,
probing and questioning,
listening and obeying,
as long as the journey lasts.
Amen.

Hymn # 146 (GG)

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Words by Joseph Simpson Cook - Music by Piae Cantiones, arr. Ernest C. MacMillan
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**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.**

**Angels sang about his birth;
Wisemen sought and found him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night;
All the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

Celebration of Holy Communion

The bread and wine we’re about to share
joins us to the people throughout history and across the world
who have come to this meal in search of life.

Just as Jesus’ birth was for the whole world
this bread and wine is for everyone
for the hungry
for the lost
for those who search
and those who are found
for those who question
and those who know peace
this is bread and wine for everyone.

Let us pray.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you.
Let the heavens be joyful,
and the earth be glad.
We bless you for creating the whole world,
for your promises to your people,
and for the life we know in Jesus Christ your son.
Born of Mary, he shares our life.
Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.
Leading his followers, he guides us.
Dying on the cross, he loves us.
Risen from the dead, he gives new life.

*On the night before Jesus died,
he had supper with his friends.
He took bread,
thanked you, as we have thanked you,
broke the bread,
and gave it to his friends, saying:
this is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.*

*After supper he took the wine,
thanked you for it,
and passed it to his friends, saying:
This cup is the new promise God has made with you
in my blood.
Each time you do this, remember me.*

We pray, God of love, that you will
send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here:
that we and these signs, touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to each other
and to all the world. Amen.

I invite those serving Communion to come forward...

(Sharing Communion)

Creator God,
we give you thanks for the grain farmers,
the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers.

Redeemer God,
we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal:
your birth, your life, your death and resurrection.

Sustaining God,

we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us,
surrounding us and filling us with Divine life.

May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us
to join more joyfully with you
as you work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

Hymn #136 (GG)

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Words and Music African American Spiritual arr. By John W. Work and Melva Wilson Costen
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**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo!
Above the earth rang out
The angel’s chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**

Charge & Benediction

In the beginning...

God.

Here among us...

God.

Wherever we travel...

God.
God the Maker,
God the Word,
God the Spirit.
Amen.

“The Blessing”

words and music by Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, and Steven Furtick
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**The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
(repeat)**

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

POSTLUDE