

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

1st Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Jesus the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest joy, may we be present in this time in worship of the greatest birthday gift we can share with everyone we meet. Help us to give the present of time and give of ourselves as the spirit of Christmas guides us. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Echo Carol"

arr. John Lloyd

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Marcel Dupre' (1886-1971)

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer for the First Sunday after Christmas

*Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ("*Jesus, the Light of the World*") #127

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)**

It's the week after Christmas, and all through the house

Is there praise for our Savior, by children or spouse?

Last week our home was noisy with excitement and glee

As children and grown folks thought, "which gifts are for me?"

Forgive us Lord!

For paying our gifts so much attention that we paid your miraculous birth no heed.

For getting impatient with our church family, who insisted that we pause to offer thanks for your birth.

Forgive us Lord!

For spending too much on gifts that yield temporary happiness.

For amassing so many Christmas memories that barely mentioned your name.

Forgive us Lord!

Remind us of the miracle of your birth, the significance of your life, The sacrifice of your death; all that we might live anew as children of Jesus Christ. Amen! (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

“From Heaven Above” (verse 5)

#111

"Glo-ry to God in highest heaven, who un-to us the Christ has given." With
an-gels sing the Savior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

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Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Choir Anthem “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year” Alfred Fedak, 1985

Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere.
(refrain) Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.
This Jesus came to end sin’s war; this name of names for us he bore. (refrain)
His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year’s needs. (refrain)
With him as Lord to lead our way in want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace!
“All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth!” the angels cry. (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Presence, the Greatest Gift!”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

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 again 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.

***Hymn**

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

#158

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 4) #143

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 newborn king!

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #132

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (refrain) #136

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - erywhere;
go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. Both staves feature triplet markings over the first three notes of each line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

***Postlude** "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Steve Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox