

December 27, 2020 ~ First Sunday of Christmas

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Wilbur Bedall, January 1st

GATHERING SONG: No. 314 – “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”, v. 3 and refrain

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Because Christ has been born in the world,
people who walked in darkness now live in great light.
Because Christ has been born in the world,
the power to oppress and kill will not stand.
Because Christ has been born in the world,
we respond in wonder:
with the angels, we sing glory to God;
with the shepherds, we share the good news;
with Mary, we ponder the words of this night,
and the Word that has come into the world:
Immanuel.

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 145 – “What Child is This”?

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.
We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.
We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.
We have not been a light to the nations,
and our lives have not revealed your glory.
Forgive us, Merciful God.
Repair the ugliness of our sin
and restore in us your beautiful grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 104 – “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”, v. 2

Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 113 and Luke 2:21-38

SERMON: “This Baby”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Mary Did You Know?"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 709 – "God, We Honor You"

God, we honor you.
God, we trust in you.
God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring,
offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 119 – "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 314 – "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness",
refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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