

Order of Service: The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020



Prelude *Silent Night*

Franz Grüber arr. Catherine McMichael
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

Hymn *Angels, from the realms of glory* (Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise *Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria

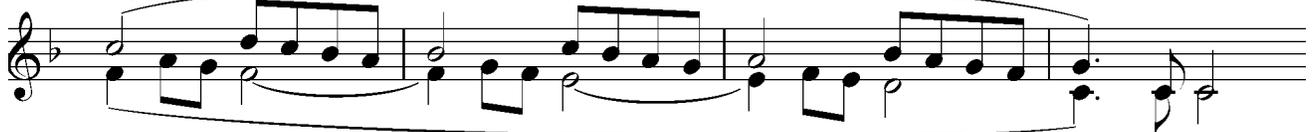


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

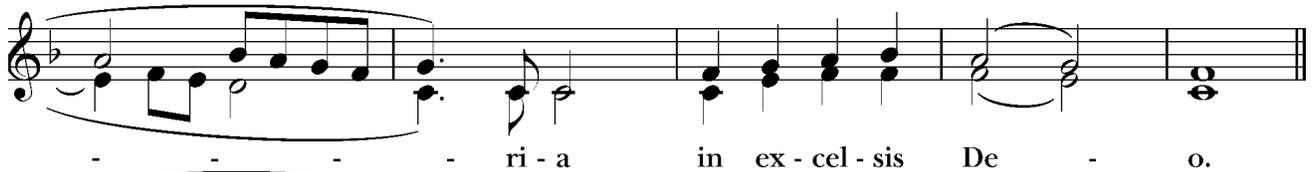
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Collect of the Day *(people muted)*

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Reading *Isaiah 61:10—62:3 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

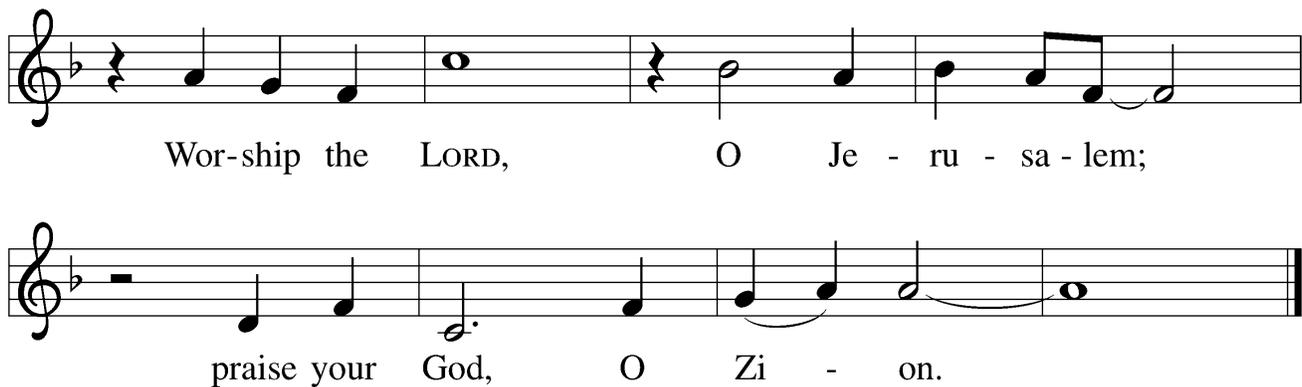
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147

Roland Woehr
Blair Webb, Soloist

REFRAIN



Wor-ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa - lem;
praise your God, O Zi - on.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
Who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
God has established peace on your borders; and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

Refrain

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold? The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
The wind blows, and the waters flow. God declares the word of Jacob,
Statutes and judgments to Israel. The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
They do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Refrain

A Reading *Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7 (people muted)*

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Il est né*

Traditional French Christmas Carol arr. Malek Sammour
Malek Sammour, Soloist

(refrain)

Il est né, le divin Enfant,
Jouez, hautbois, résonnez, musettes;
Il est né, le divin Enfant;
Chantons tous son avènement.

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous Le promettaient les Prophetes;
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

(refrain)

Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Que ses graces sont parfaites.
Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Qu'il est doux le divin Enfant.

(refrain)

Ô, Jésus, Ô, Roi tout puissant.
Tout petit enfant que vous etes,
Ô, Jésus. Ô, Roi tout puissant.
Régnez sur nous entièrement.

(refrain)

(refrain)

He is born, the divine Child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding
He is born, the divine Child.
Let all sing His nativity.

For more than four thousand years,
Prophets have foretold His coming,
For more than four thousand years,
Have we waited this happy day.

(refrain)

Ah, how lovely He is, Ah, how fair,
How perfect are His graces,
Ah, how lovely He is, Ah, how fair.
How gentle is the divine Child.

(refrain)

Jesus Lord, O, powerful King,
Though a little babe you come here,
O, Jesus, O, powerful King,
Rule completely over us.

(refrain)

The Gospel *John 1:1-18 (people muted)*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon *(people muted)*

The Rev. Dean Farrar

Silence follows the sermon.

Music *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Kevin Wood

Nicene Creed *(Please remain muted and join in praying together)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Anthem *One Small Child*

David Meece arr. Lloyd Larson
Blair Webb, Soloist

One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small city of a life.

One small light from the flame of a candle,
One small light from a city of might,
One small light from the stars in the endless
night, One small light from a face.

One kind bringing his gold and riches,
One king ruling an army of might,
One king kneeling with incense and candle light,
One King bringing us life.

See the shepherds kneeling before him;
See the kings on bended knee.
See his mother praising his Father;
See the blessed Infant sleep.

See him lying, a cradle beneath him;
See him smiling in the stall.
See his mother praising his Father;
See his tiny eyelids fall.

One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small Savior of life

Prayers of the People – Christmas

Based on prayers written by the Rev. Dcn. Suzanne Watson Epting

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus, saying God of Love, be born in us.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all your people to you—that we might be the Church and the People whom you call us to be. Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. We offer our prayers of gratitude raising up the abundant blessings of our lives; please add your own prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud.... Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

As we come near to Jesus' light; enlighten our nation, our President Donald, our President-elect Joseph, our Governor Gavin, our Mayor Robert, and all in authority, to his Brightness. Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

As angels sang “glorias” to you and proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace and bring an end to terror and strife. Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

As a baby, Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn. As an adult, he lived and worked among the poor, the sick, and the lonely: Be especially present with those who live with fear, hardship, and uncertainty, especially those we name now either silently or aloud.... Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

As your son came to proclaim forgiveness of sins and the gift of Life Eternal, give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. We pray especially for those who have died of the novel Corona Virus, and for all of our beloveds who have died; please add your own prayers either silently or aloud.... Let us pray to the Lord: **God of love be born in us.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ.

Offertory

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to God.

Christmas is a time of giving; please support the mission and ministry of St. Luke's.

Offertory Anthem *Christmas Lullaby*

John Rutter

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem: Angels are singing, their sound fills the air. Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah; But only a mother and baby lie there.	Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing. Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.
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Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing. Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.	What though your treasures are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with hearts full of love. Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.
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Where are his countries, and who are his people? Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown? Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.	Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear, O hear the lullaby angels sing. Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.
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Video – *We are Bethlehem*

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the Word made flesh and dwelling among us. But this Christmas, we cannot gather in our sacred space to receive Christ's body and blood in holy communion; we are separated from each other and from the eucharistic feast. Yet, even in the midst of this season of separation and loss, we rejoice that we are Blessed. We are Bethlehem; Christ is born in you and me. We are Christ's body in the world.

Let us now join together in our Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Prayer for Spiritual Communion *(Please remain muted and join in praying together)*

Taken from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ, "The Mass on the World"

People "Since once again, Lord... I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself; I will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labors and sufferings of the world... This bread, our toil, is of itself, but an immense fragmentation; this wine, our pain, is no more than a drought that dissolves. Yet, in the very depths of this formless mass you have implanted... a desire, irresistible, hallowing, which makes us cry out, believer and unbeliever alike: 'Lord, make us one.'" Amen.

Anthem *Amen! Tell It on the Mountain!*

Traditional Spiritual arr. Mary McDonald

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
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! Tell it, children!

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

Go, tell it! Tell it on the mountain!

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born
and God sent to us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn

Amen!

Lord's Prayer *(Please unmute and join in praying together)*

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord
Emmanuel!

And may the blessing of the God who created us, came to live among us as Jesus, and renews us
through the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you this night and always.

Announcements

The Peace

Celebrant May the love of Christ lead us into the world this night and always. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude *Joy to the World*

George Frederic Handel arr. Joseph M. Martin
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano