

# Order of Service: The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

**Prelude** *He is Born, the Divine Christ Child*

Traditional French Melody arr. Lloyd Larson

Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

**Hymn** *We three kings of Orient are*

*Three Kings of Orient*

*(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)*



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## 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*

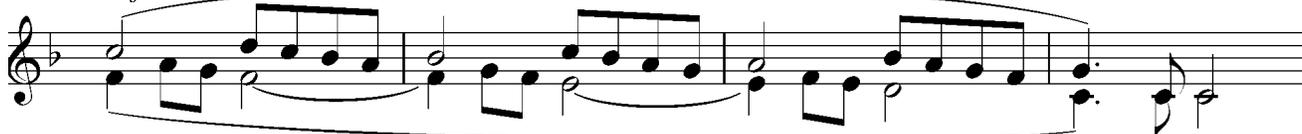


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?



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?

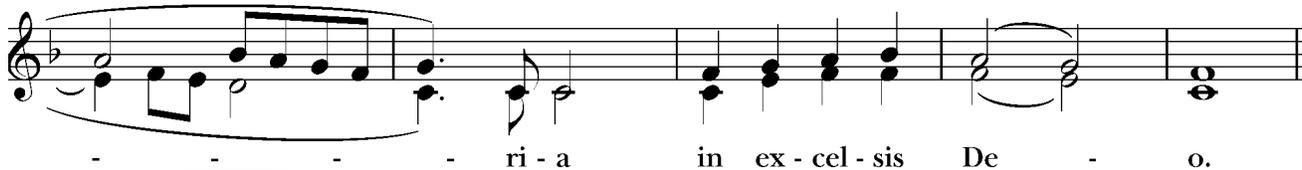
### *Refrain*



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** *Jeremiah 31:7-14 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,” says the Lord.

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

**Psalm 84:1-8**

Roland Woehr  
Harlee Balajadia, Soloist

**REFRAIN**



How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
Even the sparrow has found a home and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

**Refrain**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will be always praising you.  
Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.  
Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,  
For the early rains have covered it with pools of water.  
They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**Refrain**

**A Reading** *Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a (people muted)*

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

**Anthem** *First Noel*

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

The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise men came from country far  
To seek for a King was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**The Gospel** *Matthew 2:1-12 (people muted)*

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**The Sermon** *(people muted)*

The Rev. Jane Gould

*Silence follows the sermon.*

**Music** *What Child Is This*

English Traditional arr. Catherine McMichael  
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

**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** *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

Traditional Spiritual arr. Phil Kadidlo  
Harlee Balajadia, Soloist

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

Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy meek and mild;  
New life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
"Glory, glory, glory." Let the heavens ring!

Go tell it on the mountain,  
Jesus, what a wonderful child.  
Go tell it on the mountain;  
So holy, meek and mild;

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

New life, new hope, the child will bring.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Singin': "Glory, glory, glory."  
Let the heavens ring!  
Glory to the new born King!

### **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*

Megan Lyne Cornelius, Soloist

**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** *Who Would Imagine A King?*

Mervyn Warren and Hallerin Hilton Hill  
Becky Hasquet, Soloist

Mommies and daddies always believe  
That their little angels are special indeed  
And you could grow up to be anything  
But who would imagine a king?

A shepherd or teacher is what you could be  
Or maybe a fisherman out on the sea  
Or maybe a carpenter building things  
But who would imagine a king?

It was so clear when the wise men arrived  
And the angels were singing your name  
That the world would be different 'cause you  
were alive That's what heaven stood still to  
proclaim

One day an angel said quietly That soon he  
would bring something special to me And of all  
those wonderful gifts he could bring  
Who would imagine, who could imagine  
Who would imagine a king?

**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** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. Mary McDonald  
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano