

**First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Introit

Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all.'

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 27; John 4:23]

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

People: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

People: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.

Hymn of Praise

#1, "Holy, Holy Holy"

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God almighty
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim are falling down before Thee
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy and there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Prayer of Confession

All: O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. Lord, we wonder at the miracle of creation and we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.

Forgive us earthbound creatures, so often we are feeble in faith, empty of hope, and lacking in love. This new year let the miracle and mystery of incarnation transform our lives. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Isaiah 52:9-10; Luke 2:14]

Leader: Hear the Good News. Let us break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

People: The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Leader: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too!

People: In Christ we receive the salvation of God. Glory to God in the highest!

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me." After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

*Hymn of Preparation

#458, "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"

Refrain:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the

Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29“ Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Sermon

“Early Days of Faith... Secret Agent Man”

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

[from Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13]

Leader: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:

People: That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

Offering

Offertory

Choral Anthem: Simeon's Song- Tommy Walker

*Response

#606, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[particular prayers]

Leader: God of grace and mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.
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.**

*Hymn of Response

#363, "Rejoice, the Lord is King," vs. 1, 2, 4

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior Jesus reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ, the Judge shall come
And gather all the saints
To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

#2069, "All Hail King Jesus," Sing the Faith Hymnal

All hail King Jesus!
All hail Emmanuel!
King of Kings
Lord of Lord
Bright Morning Star
And throughout eternity
I'll sing Your praises
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity

***Postlude**

***Please Stand if Able**