

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Before we join in our celebration, we clear the way by confessing our sins and hearing once again God's gracious words of forgiveness.....

C: We admit that we are sinners, Lord, we sin in our thoughts, words, and actions, by things we have done and left undone. We especially recognize our fear of the future.....wanting to know and control our future.....rather than trusting you for what is to come. Forgive us when we forget your promises for our future.....and make clear to the eyes of our hearts.....that our future is in your loving hands.

SONG OF CONFESSION "White as Snow"

*White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know, Lord I know
That I'm clean and forgiven,
Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you, I know that I can be
White as snow.*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: God knows our fears, our failures to trust him for the future, and in Christ assures us of his forgiveness. God's forgiveness makes us as white as the snow. We are made clean for the New Year. We look to the future with great hope and promise. We can do this because God this day has freely and fully forgiven us of our sins.

C: Amen!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 45 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!*

*Glory to God. In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-14

The Lord's dedication to His people is recounted

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

New Testament Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

God has claimed us His very own sons and daughters

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Jesus is given as “a light to reveal God to the nations and the glory of His people—Israel”

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG Green Book 39 Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,*

*Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy,*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, Far as the curse is found,*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, And wonders of his love,*

SERMON [A Light for all eternity](#)

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OFFERINGS GATHERED

OFFERING SONG "Make Me A Servant"

*Make me servant, humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak,
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant, today.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

"Red Book" 119

Just As I Am

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

"Red Book" 225

I Love You, Lord

*I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice,
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.*

*I love You, Lord, and I come to You,
To taste and see and to be made whole;
The bread, the wine, I know You are here;
Fill me now with joy, take away sin and fear.*

*I love you, Lord, and I lift my hands,
To praise Your Name, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my Lord, in what You see;
May You see my life lifted up unto Thee!*

BLESSING/BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 14

Bind us Together

(Refrain)

*Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
Bind us together with love.*

(Verse)

*There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body.
That is why I sing.
(repeat refrain above)*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!