

12-27-2020 - Worship Guide - Sunday after Christmas - Christmas 1

Welcome *Please have a candle and Communion elements ready for worship.*

Confession & Peace*

You were born through Mary's labour;
We look for answers that cost us nothing.
Messiah have mercy

Messiah have mercy

You were greeted by shepherds and angels;
We close our doors on those outside.
Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

You share our whole humanity and delight in your creation;
We make your love too small and take your gift for granted.
Messiah have mercy

Messiah have mercy

The still of night is broken
By a by a baby's wordless cry;
The gods of power are shaken
By the nakedness of love;
For in the Christ Child's flesh, Jesus makes peace
And end the war of all against all.
May the peace of Christ Jesus rule our world and heal our hearts.
Amen. Let God's Mercy flow through us.

Hymn of Praise: #288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Prayer of the Day*

God of every creature, whose Child was born for all the world;
We praise you for the shepherds who lived between the earth and sky,
Who, with the animals and angels, greed the Word made flesh:
May we share their urgency to meet the Promised Child with wonder and with joy;
Through Jesus Christ, who binds all things together. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:10--62:3 (*Inclusive Version*)

I will joyfully exult in YHWH,
who is the joy of my soul!
My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
the way a bridegroom puts on a turban
and a bride bedecks herself with jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden brings its seeds to blossom,
so Exalted YHWH makes justice sprout,
and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent;
for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest—
not until her integrity shines like the dawn,
her deliverance like a flaming torch.

The nations will see your vindication,
and the rulers your splendor;
you will have a new name
that YHWH's mouth will bestow.

You will be a garland of beauty in YHWH's hands,
a solemn crown worn by your God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40 (*Inclusive Version*)

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the peoples to see—
a light of revelation to the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel.”

As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well.”

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Message

Song: #272 Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung,
 it came, a flow'r so bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.

- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,
 the rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it,
 the virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, but who transformed the place by his very presence.

I believe in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to wholeness, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for my selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of God's own self.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Amen.

Offering

- **Text:** to number 833-893-0362 text GIVE
- **Website:** www.slcmv.org and click on GIVE
- **Mail:** Salem, 2529 N. Laventure Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
- THANK YOU to those who have been contributing offerings through one of these methods. If you have not yet made the opportunity to give, every and any amount makes a difference; so please consider submitting your offerings so that we (together) continue to honor God and support Salem's ministry & mission.

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

Send the spirit of your Holy Child into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

*For what or whom else do the people pray?
(Zoom users: Please unmute or use chat feature to offer your petitions)*

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Holy Communion*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

We give thanks to God.

Thank You God for Your grace.

We thank you loving God,
For you did not abandon us
Or stand far off
But came in awful nearness
With the urgency of love.

In creation's dawn,
You gave birth to all that is;
To the people of Israel
You revealed yourself a Parent
And shared the human story.

Now we praise you
For the Word made flesh
Born of Mary's body,
Nurtured in her womb,
Cradled in her arms,
Greeted by her song.

The fullness of God dwells in Jesus' flesh,
A touch of welcome for the one thrown aside,
Good news of bread for the hungry and poor,
A shepherd to find those who are lost.

Now we are caught up,
Body and soul resound
With the glory of music divine,
Echoing through the hallowed earth:

Holy: *tune: angels we have heard on high*

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise is giv'n!
All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heav'ns.
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the one who came, bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is our Christ who comes in the bread and in the wine.
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!**

Words of Institution

Christ's Prayer (*Inclusive*)

We pray together in the Spirit that Jesus taught:
**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ is with you; Christ's grace embodies you.
Eat and drink, this is Christ's **MERCY** for you.

Lamb of God (tune: o little town of bethlehem)

**O Lamb of God from Bethlehem, where Mary gave you birth,
grant us your mercy, gracious Lord, Redeemer of the earth.**

O Lamb of God, for give us, for we still live in sin.

O, come to us, abide with us, and grant us peace within.

Prayer after Communion*

We thank you that our hunger finds its rest in Jesus who offers God's Real Presence for the life of the waiting world: earth our wandering spirit and show yourself to us in the face of every other. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing:

May we who have been touched
by the Word made flesh
be Christ's body for the world
Jesus' hands to bring blessing,
the Savior's senses to glory,
in the promise of creation restored;
And the blessing of God +
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be with now and always.
Amen.

Sending Song: #290 Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain

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

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is with you in every time and space. Thanks be to God.

Coffee Hour follows after Worship.

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Holy (Sanctus) and Lamb of God:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/christmas-carol-communion-service-complete>

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MUSIC: French carol melody.

GLORIA

77.77 with refrain

WORDS: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre.

MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS

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Scripture Readings: *The Inclusive Bible, Sheed & Ward*; March 2009, ISBN: 9781580512428, Author: Priests for Equality, Imprint: Sheed & Ward. Used with permission

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