

DECEMBER 27, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: Christmas Day was different this year. Many of us were apart from our families, and the anxiety and fear of sickness put a damper on our festivities.

People: On a day as special as Christmas, people still experience pain, sorrow, poverty and despair. Even death does not take a holiday.

Pastor: Christ our Savior was born into a world like ours, where the poor struggled to survive and people suffered; but he never turned his back on those in need.

People: Jesus knew firsthand the indignity of being poor and the difficulties and pain that life inflicts on human beings; and it moved him to feel deep compassion for those who also went through it.

Pastor: May the suffering and challenges we go through move us be compassionate and loving toward others with similar experiences. Let us worship the Lord.

#HYMN #151

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1, 2 and 4)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Blessed God, for many people the Christmas season is already over; but for us the light of Jesus' birth is still shining and breaking through into a dark and cold world. Come to us now during this time of worship, we ask, and help us to hear again with joy how you became flesh, came to us in love, and showed deep compassion toward the poor and those whose lives were mired in pain and despair. Dear Lord, during this hour speak to us of your divine grace that continues to reach out and touch us through the advent of Christ long after the presents and Christmas decorations have been put away for the year. We offer these words in the name of our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 148 and Luke 2:22-40 Dan Davidson

SERMON MESSAGE: *More Compassionate* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, when Mary and Joseph took their infant son Jesus to the Temple to present him to you, even in their poverty they offered a humble sacrifice on his behalf. Now we share our offerings and dedicate them to you and to the ministry of our church. Bless the gifts we give, we pray, and use them to move our hearts with compassion for others in need and to help accomplish the redeeming work you have called us to do in the name of Christ. Amen.

#149 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2 and 4)*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Give thanks to God who, in Jesus the Christ, made Himself known and expressed His love for all humankind.

People: In the birth of Jesus, God has given those who suffer reason to hope and those who weep reason to rejoice.

Pastor: We have all struggled with challenges in life. We have all felt pain and sorrow and have had our hearts broken at one time or another.

People: May God heal our broken hearts and fill them with compassion and a devotion to ministering to those whose hearts are broken, too.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL