

**January 3, 2021 + The Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**First Presbyterian Church +++ Mason, Michigan**

*This service includes the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
Have some bread and grape juice, or the equivalent, on hand.*

**PRELUDE**

***Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella!***

Uehlein

***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

Linker

***Variations on "Puer Natus in Bethlehem"***

te Velde

*I. "A Child Is Born in Bethlehem"*

*II. "And Joy Is in Jerusalem"*

*III. "Rejoice, Rejoice, Sing High, Sing Low"*

*IV. "Benedicamus Domino"*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God,  
you have filled us with the light of the Word  
who became flesh and lived among us.  
Let the light of faith shine in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Luke 2:10-11; Jeremiah 31:8, 13; Ephesians 1:3*

There is good news of great joy for all!  
**Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.**  
The Lord will gather the people from exile;  
**God will turn their sorrow into joy.**  
Blessed is the Lord our God,  
**and blessed is Jesus Christ our Savior.**  
Let us worship God!

**HYMN #157**

**"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

IN DULCI JUBILO

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!

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!

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 his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Titus 2:11-12*

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all  
and teaching us to renounce  
what is evil in this world.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of grace and truth,  
in Jesus Christ you came among us  
as light shining in darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
or trusted good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,  
expecting little, and hoping for less.**

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Titus 2:14*

Christ our Savior gave himself for us,  
that he might redeem us from our sin  
and claim us as his own people.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN #163**

**“Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming”**

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

Lo! how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming

as saints of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas 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.

This Flower, 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 every load.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
let us pray for the life of the world,  
saying: O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . .  
With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder  
the gift that has been given to us,  
a gift of good news and great joy for all.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . .  
With the prophets, help us to proclaim  
the promise of your peace for all nations  
and your justice for all people.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . .  
With the shepherds, help us to keep watch  
over those entrusted to our care  
and all who need protection this night.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .  
With the angels, help us to offer  
signs of hope, comfort, and joy  
for all who live in fear.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,  
help us to bear witness to your light  
so that all may believe and have life in you;  
in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| “Étude Op. 10 No. 9 in F Minor”                  | Chopin |
| “Étude Op. 10 No. 11 in E-flat Major”            | Chopin |
| “Étude Op. 10 No. 12 in C Minor ‘Revolutionary’” | Chopin |
| “Nocturne in E Major”                            | Chopin |

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

A child is born for us in Bethlehem,  
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;  
**and he will be our Shepherd,**  
**feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

*Luke 2:12; Micah 5:4*

This is the Lord’s Table.  
Our Savior invites those who trust him  
to share the feast that he has prepared.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts!  
**We lift them to the Lord!**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You created light out of darkness  
and brought forth life on the earth.  
You formed us in your image  
and called us to love and serve you.  
When we were unfaithful  
and turned from your ways,

you did not forsake us,  
your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and sent prophets to call us back to your way.  
In the fullness of time  
you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.  
In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity,  
became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,  
and we beheld your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the celestial choirs  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*(Choir:)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:25-26*

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Born in humility,  
he came to rule over all.  
Helpless as an infant,  
he showed the power of your love.  
Poor in things of the world,  
he brought the wealth of your grace.  
Rejected by many,  
he welcomed all who sought him.  
In his dying and rising,  
you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising

as we await the day of his coming.  
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice,  
dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*(Choir:)*

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Empower us by your Spirit, O God,  
to be Christ's presence in the world  
even as Jesus was God-with-us.  
Give us courage  
to speak his truth,  
to seek his justice,  
and to love with his love.  
Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

*(Choir:)*

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray for God's rule on earth  
as Jesus taught us.

**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, forever. Amen.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,  
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,  
until he comes.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ,  
given for you.  
**Amen.**

The blood of Christ,  
given for you.  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of grace and peace,  
as you have shared your life with us  
through the child in the manger  
and this simple meal together,  
let us share your life with others  
as the body of Christ in the world;  
through Jesus, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

*John 1:16*

From the fullness of God  
we have all received grace upon grace.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**OFFERTORY**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

te Velde

**RESPONSE #152**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High” (refrain)**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God,  
by the gift of your Holy Spirit  
show us the Word made flesh—  
good news of great joy for all—  
so that we may sing with the angels:  
glory in the highest and peace on earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

For 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.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 147:12-20**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.  
He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.  
He hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?  
He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.  
He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the LORD!

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

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. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 1:10-18**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**MEDITATION**

**"The Founder of Christianity"**

Rev. Bill Pinches

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Glory to you, almighty God,  
for you sent your only-begotten Son,  
that we might have new life.  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for you became flesh and lived among us  
that we might become your people.  
Glory to you, Holy Spirit,  
for you direct and rule our lives.  
Glory to you, almighty God,  
and to your Son, Jesus Christ,

and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #185**

**“We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God on high.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds thro’ the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

**BLESSING**

Arise and shine, for your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**Alleluia!**

*Isaiah 60:1*

Go now and bear witness  
to the light of Christ.  
**Amen!**

*John 1:7*

**POSTLUDE**

***To Thee, O Lord, Be Glory Paid***

te Velde



*Adoration of the Magi* by El Greco (c. 1568)

### CREDITS

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**Organist:** Darlene Ross

**Pianist:** Hrant Bagrazyan

**Vocalists:** Travis Archer, Lisa Castle, and Deb Melse

**Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen** previously recorded by Travis Archer, Mary Robinson, Peter Robinson, Camille Subject, Barb VanDyke, and Torrie Yanz

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Ministers:** All Church Members