



December 25, 2022 – Livestream
Christmas Day

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Sell

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

D. Janzer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is born; give him glory!

People: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!

Christ is now on earth; exalt him!

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

People: O you nations, praise him in joy, for Christ has been glorified!

*OPENING HYMN #245

The First Noel

***The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]***

***Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]***

OPENING PRAYER

All glory to you, great God,

for the gift of your Son,

whom you sent to save us.

With singing angels, we praise your name

and tell the earth his story,

that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,

celebrating your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who brings good news,
the good news of peace and salvation,
the news that the God of Israel reigns!

⁸ The watchmen shout and sing with joy,
for before their very eyes
they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem.

⁹ Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song,
for the Lord has comforted his people.
He has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has demonstrated his holy power
before the eyes of all the nations.
All the ends of the earth will see
the victory of our God.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

***Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:***

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

***Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]***

***Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]***

***Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]***

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4

Darren Cushman Wood

¹ Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. ³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. ⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! 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: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!***

***He hath opened heaven's door, and ye 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: News, news! 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!***

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #818

Psalm 98

HYMN OF PRAYER #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

v. 1-2

***Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.***

***Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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 #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

v. 3

***Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Worship the Gift

arr. D. Clydesdale
Mark Gilgallon, soloist

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Sleep in heavenly peace.

*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

tune: *United Methodist Hymnal #229*

***Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,
glo-ry to the Ho-ly Spir- it, glo-ry to the Three in One.
Here we of-fer to you glad-ly all the gifts that you im-part,
as we glo-ry in your Pre-sence, giv-ing from a grate-ful heart.***

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being

⁴ in him was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world,

and the world came into being through him;

yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to what was his own,

and his own people did not accept him.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name,

he gave power to become children of God,

¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

First Word, Last Word

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #237

Sing We Now of Christmas

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain: Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

***Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (Refrain)***

***In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (Refrain)***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A. Wyton

This week's worship leaders

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*
Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*
John Hague and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*
Kathleen Custer, *Guest Organist*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Jan 1, 11:00am
(Only one worship service; no Sunday school and no child care.)

Jan 6, 5:30-7:30pm — Epiphany Party
Celebrate Epiphany with dinner, king cake, and fun activities and games.

Jan 15, 11:00am — MLK Sunday
Guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas of the Christian Theological Seminary

Jan 15, 5:00pm — Forum on the eviction crisis

Tuesdays from Jan 24-Feb 28, 6-7:30pm — "6 Ways We Encounter God,"
A study led by Pastor Sunil (in person and online).

Jan 28, 5-6:30pm — "The Working Hungry," a film by Indy Hunger Network

Feb 21, 5:30-7pm — Mardi Gras