



January 5, 2025 – Livestream
Second Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

arr. A. Bullard

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather together
you doubters and dreamers,
you cynics and schemers,
you would-be saints and wild-eyed sinners.

People: O Lord, bless us now!

Leader: Come together you people
with heavy burdens and broken spirits,
with timid souls and worried looks,
with lonely hearts and checkered pasts.

People: O Lord, set us free!

*OPENING HYMN #2236

Gather Us In

***Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in—the lost and forsaken, gather us in—the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

***We are the young—our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old—who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be the light to the whole human race.
Gather us in—the rich and the haughty, gather us in—the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.***

***Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.***

***Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in—all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Now this is what the Lord says: "Sing with joy for Israel.

Shout for the greatest of nations!

Shout out with praise and joy:

'Save your people, O Lord, the remnant of Israel!'

⁸ For I will bring them from the north

and from the distant corners of the earth.

I will not forget the blind and lame,

the expectant mothers and women in labor.

A great company will return!

⁹ Tears of joy will stream down their faces,

and I will lead them home with great care.

They will walk beside quiet streams

and on smooth paths where they will not stumble.

For I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my oldest child.

¹⁰ "Listen to this message from the Lord,

you nations of the world; proclaim it in distant coastlands:

The Lord, who scattered his people,

will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.

¹¹ For the Lord has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them.

¹² They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem.

They will be radiant because of the Lord's good gifts—

the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and the healthy flocks and herds.

Their life will be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows will be gone.

¹³ The young women will dance for joy,

and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration.

I will turn their mourning into joy.

I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.

¹⁴ The priests will enjoy abundance,

and my people will feast on my good gifts.

I, the Lord, have spoken!"

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

What Songs Were Sung

J.J. Niles
Ron Berry, soloist

We cannot tell, we do not know what stars shone down so long ago,
when Mary birthed her own sweet Son and peace and love became as one.
The Son of God, as scriptures said, was Virgin born in a tiny shed,
where simple shepherds stood hard by while heavenly sound filled up the sky.

Now let us stand, uncovered all, before this creche in lowly stall,
where kings and angels dignify God's gift, His Son, in humility.
We do not know, we cannot tell what songs were sung,
what starlight fell, or why the holy mystery stands for so many years in so many lands.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-8

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴Even before God made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into God's own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what the Lord wanted to do, and it gave God great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace the Lord has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷God is so rich in kindness and grace that the Lord purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸God has showered kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pouring Time

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN #606

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

v.1-2

***Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,
in a perpetual cov'nant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
give up ourselves, thru Jesus' pow'r, his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.***

***The cov'nant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ,
reluctant to follow him, and afraid to bear the cross: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, forgive.

Leader: For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,
the selfishness of our prayers, the neglect of our fellowship,
and our hesitating witness for Christ: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, forgive.

Leader: For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts, evade our responsibilities,
and avoid being good stewards of your creation: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, forgive.

Leader: For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good,
tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn,
and selfish in sharing your love with others: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, forgive.

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Therefore, to all who truly repent this is God's gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION #607

**I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mid-Winter

B. Chilcott

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain:
Heaven and Earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give him - give my heart.

*DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God...
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ....

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup....

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER #2278

*BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BLESSING

As persons are sharing the bread and cup in the sanctuary, extend your hands to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to receive communion from today's service please contact the church to schedule for a pastor to bring it to your home this week, nricketts@northchurchindy.com

COMMUNION HYMNS

#2268

As We Gather

***As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.***

***Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.***

***Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.***

***There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.***

#475

Come Down, O Love Divine

***Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.***

***O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.***

***And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.***

PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #606

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

v. 3

***Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!***

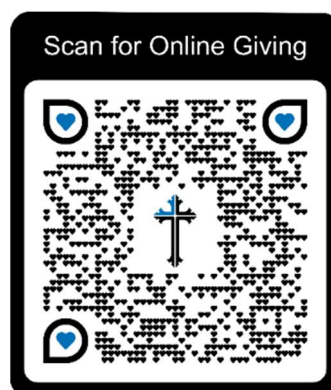
*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Walk in the Light

arr. D. Blackwell

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and with gratefulness as we celebrate our
30th wedding anniversary, from Jim and Mary McDonald.*



SCRIPTURE REFERENCE GUIDE

WHAT TO READ WHEN:

The Future Seems Hopeless—I Peter 1:3-9
Seeking God’s Direction—Romans 12:1-3
You Need Comfort—II Corinthians 1:3-7; Isaiah 51:3; Isaiah 66:13; John 14:1
You Need Assurance of Salvation—I John 5:9-13; Romans 10:8-10
Your Faith Needs Strengthening—Philippians 4:10-13
You are Challenged by Troubles—Romans 8:28-39
You are worried—1 Peter 5:7
You Need to Leave the Past Behind—Philippians 3:12-14
You Need Freedom from Sin—Romans 6:1-23
You Struggle to Pray—Romans 8:26-27
You Need Direction—Psalm 37:3-5
You Need Hope—2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Colossians 1:3-5; Titus 3:6-7
You Need Peace—Psalm 29:11; Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27; Philippians 4:7

GOD’S PROMISES WHEN YOU:

Feel Guilty—1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:8-12	Feel Weary—Matthew 11:28-30
Are Discouraged— John 16:22-24	Are Disappointed—John 15:7
Are Anxious—Matthew 6:25	Are Sick—James 5:14-15
Are Confused—John 14:27	Are Tested—I Corinthians 10:13
Are Weak—II Corinthians 12:9-10	Are Afraid—II Timothy 1:7; John 16:33
Suffer—I Peter 2:20-21	Doubt—Hebrews 10:22; Romans 8:1

FINDING FAITH THROUGH:

SURRENDER: Psalm 37:7; Psalm 62: 1; Romans 12:1; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 5:6-7
ADORATION: Psalm 96:1; Psalm 103:1; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 4:17; Hebrews 13:15
SUFFERING: Lamentations 3:19-24; Matthew 11:28; Romans 8:26; 1 Peter 3:14
PERSEVERANCE: Isaiah 43:2; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 2:18; James 1:2-4;
COMMITMENT: Leviticus 20:7-8; Psalm 56:12; Mark 8:34-37; Philippians 3:8

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES IN 2025

(choose at least 1 from each category & keep this as a reminder)

ACTS OF DEVOTION

Read the Bible every week
 Read a psalm each day
 Join a Sunday School class or a short-term study/small group
 Pray for others each week
 Walk & meditate each week
 Say grace at meals
 Keep a journal

ACTS OF WORSHIP

Attend worship regularly
 Look & listen for God in music and the arts
 Sing hymns
 Use Sunday’s bulletin in your daily prayers
 Invite someone to church

ACTS OF MERCY

Make a financial donation to the church’s ministries
 Volunteer in an outreach ministry
 Help my neighbors
 Plant a garden
 Express gratitude to people who have blessed me

ACTS OF JUSTICE

Pray for the needs of the world
 Recycle
 Pick up trash in public areas
 Care for shelter animals
 Write a letter for social justice
 Study the UMC’s Social Principles

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