

8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 27th, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

(Please follow the ushers' direction on seating. We will maintain at least 6 feet between individuals unless you come as a family who live together.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" – Wilbur Held

P. We prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

CONFESSION:

C. Almighty God, I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. I have sinned by what I have done and what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart.

I have not loved my neighbor as myself. Forgive me. Renew me. Lead me. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who suffered for us all and was raised from the dead, that first Easter. Amen.

P. It is always my honor and privilege to announce that God has freely forgiven you and me. We stand here, trusting, by God's grace alone. We stand here as free men and women, boys and girls. May the wind of Pentecost move our hearts and our hands.

C. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: "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!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God, your love comforts and challenges us. Let your presence reveal who we are. And from what we know, help us to grow. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

SERMON: “Ambiguous Blessings”

Pastor Larry Isbell

HYMN OF THE DAY: “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*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the dead,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(At the end of each petition, the leader will say "Lord, in your mercy." Feel free to respond with "Hear our prayer.")

THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERING**COMMUNION LITURGY**

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**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 and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION:

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We trust and teach the "real presence" of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine.

**C. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution:

P. The body of Christ, given.
The communion wafer is consumed at this time.

P: The blood of Christ, shed.
The communion wine is consumed at this time.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

P. Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION:

P. Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

- 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

DISMISSAL:

- P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” – J. S. Bach

*(Please exit row by row, beginning with the back.
Talk to others from a distance in the parking lot.)*

Today’s altar flowers are given by Brian & Kim Jones in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary, and by The Rodgers family in honor of Danielle’s 23rd birthday.