**St. Mark’s Worship Sunday January 3, 2021**

**Welcome to our Online Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Call To Worship**

***Opening Song - Christ Be Our Light Verse 1,2,5 ELW 715***

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

**Mission Statement**

**“**Celebrating God’s Love and Forgiveness, We serve others”

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who was in the beginning,

who makes a dwelling among us,

who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and loving kindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,**

**those we know and those known only to you,**

**for the sake of the one who came to live among us,**

**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through ☩ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

 **Greeting**

From the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty; grace, light, and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

***Hymn of Praise – What Child is This? Verse 1 ELW296***

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?

This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary!

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn of the Day – Of The Father’s Love Begotten Verse 1-3 ELW 295***

Of the Father's love begotten

Ere the worlds began to be,

He is Alpha and Omega,

He the source, the ending he,

Of the things that are, that have been,

And that future years shall see,

Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,

When the virgin, full of grace,

By the Holy Ghost conceiving,

Bore the Savior of our race,

And the babe, the world's redeemer,

First revealed his sacred face,

Evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time

Chanted of with one accord,

Whom the voices of the prophets

Promised in their faithful word;

Now he shines, the long-expected;

Let creation praise its Lord

Evermore and evermore.

### Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In 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, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In 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; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

 **“Alleluia”**

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel – John 1:1-18**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
  10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And 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. 15(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.’ ”) 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

 The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** Pastor Karla Halvorson

***Hymn of the Day Cont’d – Of the Father’s Love Begotten Verse 4-5 ELW 295***

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;

Angel hosts, his praises sing;

Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him

And extol our God and King;

Let no tongue on earth be silent,

Ev'ry voice in concert ring

Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,

And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,

Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving

And unwearied praises be:

Honor, glory, and dominion,

And eternal victory

Evermore and evermore! Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Leader: Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

**Blessing of prayer quilts**

**Offering**

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***Offering Song – Angels We Have Heard On High Verse 1-2 ELW 289***

Angels we have heard on high,

Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply,

Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be

Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim our peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be**

**done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as**

**we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us**

**from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Community Time**

**Blessing**

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

***Sending Song – Go Tell it On The Mountain Verse 1-3 ELW 290***

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching

O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold, throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light. Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled

When, lo, above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus

That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

Down in a lonely manger

The humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation

That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

And wonders, wonders of his love.

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Share the Peace of the Lord in the comments below!**