

**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

Introduction and Welcome to worship by Bishop Andy Taylor

† **GATHERING** †

**Prelude Music**

St. Paul Lutheran, Fullerton, CA

**Gathering Song**

Angels, We Have Heard On High

ELW 289

- 1 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.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

**Greeting**

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, in the highest: *Refrain*

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray....(*A brief silence is kept.*)... Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

# † THE WORD †

## The Children's Sermon

### Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- <sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- <sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!

## Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon

came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*"Just What We Were Waiting For"*

*the Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor, Bishop*

**Hymn of the Day**

Love Has Come

ELW 292

Love has come, a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

*Words by Ken Bible; Music: French Carol Melody, attr. to Saboly, 17th c.,*

## Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*English:* O God, our creator, night and day, everything you called into existence praises you. The earth in all seasons, the sun, moon, and stars, creatures beyond our imaginations. Strengthen your church throughout the earth, across cultures, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Spanish:* O God, ruler of the nations, who are upheld by your hand. Be among us inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Korean:* O God, send the spirit of Christ into each of our hearts. Replace the fear in our hearts with peace, replace the anger with compassion, replace guilt with your pardon. Be with those who are broken by loneliness and grief, and heal those who long for your wholeness. We ask for your healing touch for those with lift up in our hearts and minds (a moment of silence) Reveal your power to heal and to save.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Batak:* O God, the parent of all, we give thanks that you have adopted us into your family. Help us to recognize one another as all belonging in Christ. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Connect young and old across generations. Strengthen us, so that we may continue to answer your call to love and serve you and our neighbors. Dwell within us, so that we may be the gentle touch of your presence, raising our voices in advocacy for those in need of income, food, company, healthcare, clothing, and shelter.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God of mercy come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## Offering

It is our privilege to be able to support God's mission in our world through our local congregation and our synod for the proclamation of the gospel, including the care of those in need.

### Offering Song

Christmas Angel Suite

Becky Anderson/Michèle Sharik

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. 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 your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

## † SENDING †

### 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

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!

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*

3 Down in a lonely manger, the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God**

### Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus

Bethlehem Lutheran Encinitas, CA

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## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Preacher	the Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor, bishop
Presider	the Rev. Tom Goellrich
Children's sermon	the Rev. Terry Tuvey Allen
First reading	Terri Robertson
Second reading	Carol Youngman
Gospel reading	Rachel Line
Prayers of the people	the Rev. J.P. Sabbithi, the Rev. Maria Santa Cruz, the Rev. HyunHo Hong, the Rev. Diana Simanjuntak
Prelude music	W. Chris Winn and Greg Adamson: St. Paul Lutheran, Fullerton, CA
Organ Accompaniment	Leslie Gullett, Trinity Lutheran, Victorville, CA
Handbells	Michèle Sharik and Becky Anderson, Trinity Lutheran, Victorville, CA
Guitar & Vocals	Pastor Matt and Becky Anderson (with Ellie and Luke!), Trinity Lutheran, Victorville, CA
Vocals on Hymns	Members of the Pacifica Synod
Postlude	Bethlehem Lutheran Church Choir, Encinitas, CA
Technical Support	Michèle Sharik, Trinity Lutheran, Victorville and Rachel Line, Pacifica Synod