

**PRAISE SERVICE
DECEMBER 26, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, find the Scripture readings in your Bible or the pew Bible, and pray. You may use this prayer:

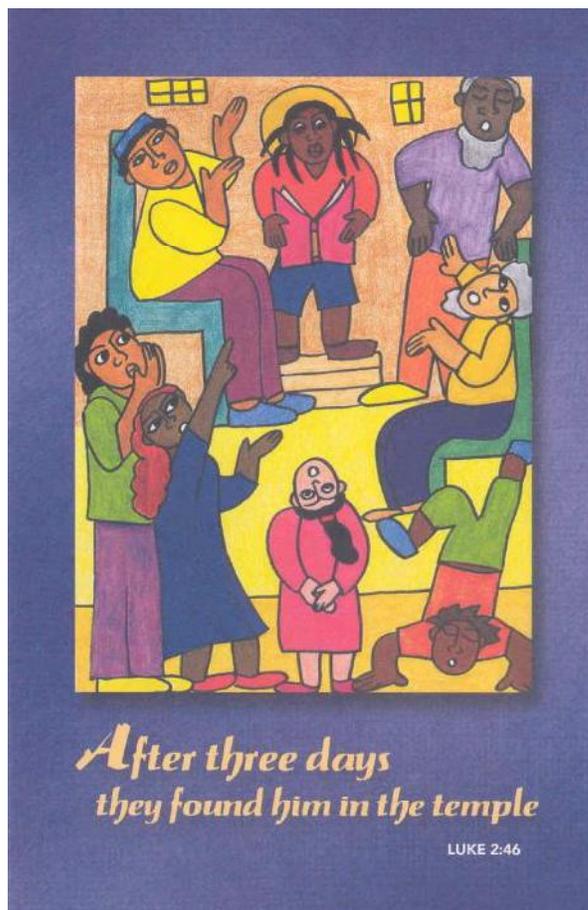
Holy Father, I humbly yet joyfully enter Your house of worship for forgiveness and blessing. Help me this day to experience Your presence then go to love others, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION

During Christmastide, our attention is drawn to the holy family:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We, too, are God's children and part of a holy family, set apart through the baptismal waters in which we have been washed. As we end one year and begin another, we ask how God's likeness in Christ may become more visible in us, God's new offspring.



COMMEMORATION

Today the church remembers St. Stephen, chosen by the apostles to be a deacon serving the poor and widowed, whose steadfast confession of faith led to his becoming the first martyr of the Christian church.

(Please rise.)

GATHERING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful” (Christmas Version)

(Celebration # 271 - Text: Linda Lee Johnson; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven)

> 1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore You, God of glo - ry, Lord of light;
> 2. All Your works de - clare Your glo - ry; All cre - a - tion joins to sing.

An - gels lift - ing praise be - fore You Sing thro' - out this ho - ly night.
Praise re - sounds as earth re - joic - es In the birth of Christ, the King.

In a man - ger lies a Ba - by - Child of Mar - y, Son of God.
Shep - herds kneel be - fore the In - fant. Trum - pets sound and an - thems raise

Voic - es joined in joy - ful cho - rus Praise You for Your gift of love.
As with joy our hearts are lift - ed, Joined in won - der, love, and praise.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

L: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness

(Please kneel.) Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust in Your will.

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

P: The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

C: Forgive our reluctance to seek You with all our hearts.

P: The angel said, you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Alleluia.

P: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. **C: Amen.**

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Praise the Lord! O Heavens" (ELW # 823)

1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.

sun and moon, re - jice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
 God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.

Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;

laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
 heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *The Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796, alt.
 Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732 - 1809

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **C: Shine into our hearts the light of Your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of Your word, that in all things we may think and act according to Your good will and may live continually in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 148 (*congregation: indented*)

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens,

praise Him in the heights above.

Praise Him, all His angels,

praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon,

praise Him, all you shining stars.

Praise Him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for He commanded and they were created.

He set them in place for ever and ever;

He gave a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

lightning and hail, snow and clouds,

stormy winds that do His bidding,

you mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars,

wild animals and all cattle,

small creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all nations,

you princes and all rulers on earth,

young men and maidens,

old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for His name alone is exalted;

His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His saints,
of Israel, the people close to His heart.

Praise the LORD.

PRAISE SONG (*Please sit.*) “*Good King Wenceslas*”

Words by *J. M. Neale.*

Traditional.

CHORUS.

1. Good King Wen - ces - las looked out On the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay
round a - bout, Deep, and crisp and e - ven: Bright - ly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cru - el, When a poor man came in sight, Gath'ring win - ter fu - el.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

2. *Men:* “**Hither, page, and stand by me,
if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?**”

Women: “**Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
by Saint Agnes’ fountain.**”

3. *Men:* “Bring me food and bring me wine,
bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine,
when we bear them thither.”
- All:* Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together,
Through the cold wind’s wild lament
and the bitter weather.
4. *Women:* “Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.”
- Men:* “Mark my footsteps, my good page,
tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter’s rage
freeze your blood less coldly.”
5. *All:* In his master’s steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor
shall yourselves find blessing.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S CHAT *Ruthann Kistler*

FIRST READING....1 Samuel 2:18-21, 26.....p. 421

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING....Acts 6: 8-7:2a, 51-60.....p. 1700

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Please rise.*)

“Give Thanks” (W&R # 359 - Henry Smith)

Unison

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give

thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the

poor say "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us. And us. Give thanks!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL....Luke 2:41-52.....p. 1592

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON (*Please sit.*)

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

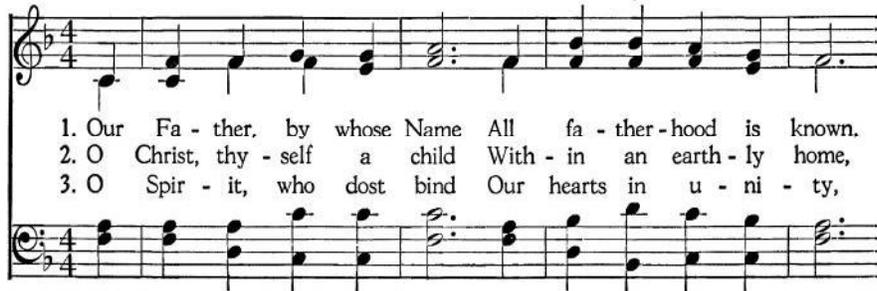
HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"Our Father, by Whose Name" (LW # 465)

F. Bland Tucker, 1941

RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.

John David Edwards, c. 1840



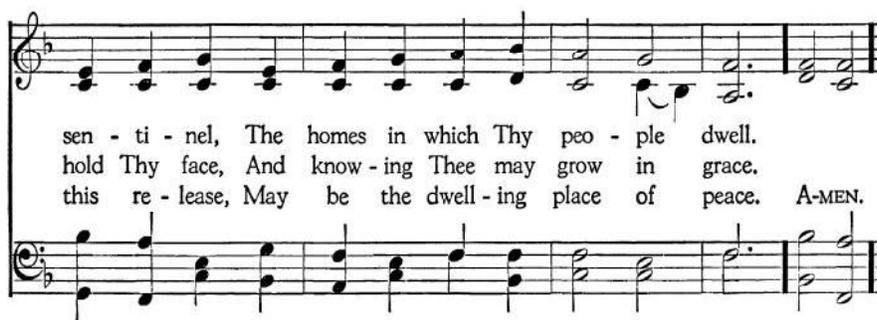
1. Our Fa - ther, by whose Name All fa - ther - hood is known,
2. O Christ, thy - self a child With - in an earth - ly home,
3. O Spir - it, who dost bind Our hearts in u - ni - ty,



Who dost in love pro - claim Each fam - i - ly Thine own,
With heart still un - de - filed Thou didst to man - hood come;
Who teach - est us to find The love from self set free,



Bless Thou all par - ents, guard - ing well, With con - stant love as
Our chil - dren bless in ev - ery place, That they may all be -
In all our hearts such love in - crease, That ev - ery home, by



sen - ti - nel, The homes in which Thy peo - ple dwell.
hold Thy face, And know - ing Thee may grow in grace.
this re - lease, May be the dwell - ing place of peace. A-MEN.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

(Please rise.)

SENDING EXHORTATION....Colossians 3:12-17...p. 1834

BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING CAROL "The First Noel" (Maj # 131)

English Carol

English Melody
From Sandys' *Christmas Carols*

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor
2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the
3 And by the light of that same star, Three wise men
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O - ver Beth - le -
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - erent -
6 Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

1 shep - herds in fields as they lay - In fields where they lay keep - ing their
2 east, be - yond them far; And to the earth it gave great
3 came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -
4 hem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and
5 ly up - on their knee; And of - fered there, in His pres -
6 to our heav - en - ly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of

1 sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, no -
4 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
5 ence, Their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.
6 naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el! No - el, no - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit,
let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we
have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

DECEMBER 26, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

CHILDREN'S CHAT: Ruthann Kistler
PHONETREE: Volunteer Needed
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker/Sharon Branigan
GREETER: 8:30-*Volunteer*/10:45-*Volunteer*
HOSPITALITY: *Volunteer*
SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela/10:45-Jim Steiner
LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Amanda Wechsler
LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein/10:45-Michele Sciarra
LECTOR: 8:30-Patty Stein/10:45-Michele Sciarra
PRAYER CARE: Darlene Treisner call (610) 442 8494
COUNTERS: Jan Stryker/Karen Brown/Michele Sciarra

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Marianne Sands, *Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 10:45AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM

(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

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