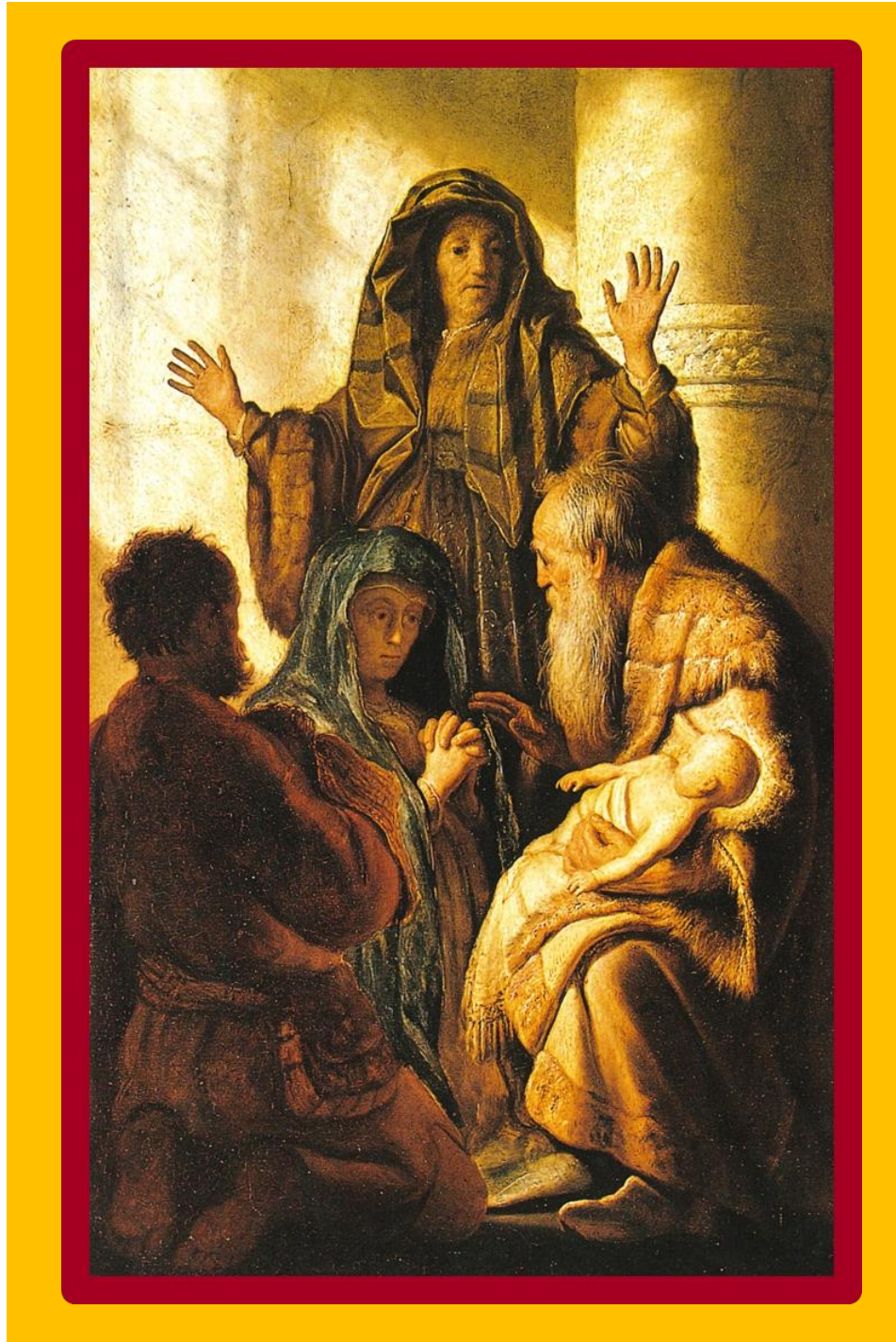


First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020 10:30 a.m.



Simeon's Prophecy to Mary
~ Rembrandt van Rijn

Watch our Chapel Service on CHANNEL 102

Order of Worship

Carol of the Bells

Handbell Quartet
Victory Baptist Church

Gathering Music

The First Noël

Deonne Gray
Rhonda Reece

Welcome & Word Concerning This Day

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

LBW 55

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!

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!

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 his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, alt.; **Music:** German carol, 14th century

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life. **Amen.**

Let us confess our need for God's mercy.

**We confess that we are not at peace—
with others or with ourselves.**

**We bring to you all that tears us apart:
discord in our families, violence in our world,
our own conflicted hearts.**

**In your mercy, mend us. Draw us close
to one another and to you. Let peace reign
over all the earth, through the Prince of peace,
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Forgiveness

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.
Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:
in the name of Jesus our Savior,
you are free from all your sins.
Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**

Christmas Song

*The Happy Christmas
Comes Once More*

ELW 298

The happy Christmas comes once more,
The heavenly guest is at the door,
The blessed words the shepherds thrill,
The joyous tidings, 'Peace, goodwill.'

The lowly Saviour meekly lies,
Laid off the splendor of the skies;
No crown bedecks his forehead fair,
No pearl, nor gem, nor silk is there.

O wake, our hearts, in gladness sing,
And keep our Christmas with our King,
Till living song, from loving souls,
Like sound of mighty water rolls.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, *Service Book and Hymnal*
© 1958 Augsburg Publishing House

Prophecy

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ***Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.***

(Turn page)

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.***

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

Message

Pr. Kristine

Love Came Down at Christmas

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?*

**Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**



Prayers of the Church

Invitation to Silent Prayer

All things we ask and thank you for are yours,
 O God of our salvation.
 With grateful hearts today
 we lay our offerings of prayer
 at your feet. **Amen.**

Piano Offering

In the Bleak Midwinter

Rhonda R.

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
 In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
 The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*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 can I give him—give my heart.*

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti; **Music:** Gustav Holst

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION Instruction & Invitation

*The mystery hidden for the ages
is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.*



Communion Song *What Child Is This?*

Rhonda R.

*What feast of love is offered here,
What banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
What gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
The bread come down from heaven.
O taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!*

Lord's Prayer

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on The Way. May our lives always proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* ELW 268

*These are the signs that you will see
To let you know that it is he:
In manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
The child who all the earth upholds.*

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away;
How can our thanks such love repay?

O Lord, you have created all!
How did you come to be so small,
To sweetly sleep in manger-bed
Where lowing cattle lately fed?

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber in my heart,
That you and I may never part.

(Turn page)

9

*Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us the Son has giv'n.
With angels sing in pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth!*

Text: Martin Luther, tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; **Music:** attr. Martin Luther;
V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, arr. hymnal version, ©2007 Augsburg Fortress

Announcements

Blessing

May God direct your ways in peace,
Make you abound in love for one another and for all,
And strengthen your hearts
Until the coming of our Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Cold December Flies Away* LBW 53

Cold December flies away
At the rose-red splendor,
April's crowning glory breaks
While the whole world wonders,
At the holy unseen pow'r
Of the tree that bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree
Blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose
Here in love's own garden,
Full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin
 Shadows deep had fallen.
 All the world lay under death.
 Eyes were closed in sleeping.
 But, when all seemed lost in night,
 Came the sun whose golden light
 Brings unending joy,
 Brings the endless joy
 Of our hope, highest hope,
 Of our hope's bright dawning,
 Son beloved of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom,
 And the world awakens.
 In the lily's purest flow'r
 Dwells a wondrous fragrance.
 And it spreads to all the earth
 From the moment of its birth;
 And its beauty lives.
 In the flow'r it lives,
 In the flower, and it spreads
 In its heav'nly brightness,
 Sweet perfume delightful.

Text: Catalanian carol, tr. Howard Hawhee; **Music:** Catalanian carol

Postlude

Noël Nouvelet

Arr. by Daniel Kallman
 Madeline Miller, violin
 Deonne Gray, violin
 Charles Gray, viola
 Cameron Gray, cello
 Kylie Gray, flute

With very special thanks to:

Mark and Suzanne Daehlin

**Rhonda Reece
The Gray Family**

**All Saints Episcopal Church
The Rev. Gayle Marsh
Senior Warden Mark Heiman**

Eric Haines and Mike Hince

**Peter Ramseth
Phyllis Maring**



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