

December 27, 2020 – At Home Worship

Welcome to worship for the first Sunday of Christmas ☺ Thank you for joining us to celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus ☺ Today will not be with you “in person” – and a service of lessons and carols has been prepared for us.

It won't be possible to sing everything in one voice ... and singing alone may bring you to different emotions. Allow that to be what you feel and experience. Keep Kleenex at hand if you need it, and, through the Word, the music, what you are able to sing, and most importantly, Spirit, know that God is with you, in this time.

We will be gathering with ZOOM. Until we work out our technology limitations, we are experimenting on Heide's Zoom service for live online worship. This allows us to gather together for worship from our respective homes. We want to ensure this is the best package for our use before the church invests in our own Zoom subscription. **You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of the Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):**

1 587 328 1099 or
1 647 374 4685 or
1 647 558 0588 or
1 778 907 2071 or
1 204 272 7920 or
1 438 809 7799

Use your telephone keypad to enter the meeting ID and Passcode when asked.

Sunday Worship Dec. 27.

Time: Dec 27, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390889170?pwd=RmVvR1lISW9GOGVWcVozRHVqaHlOQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 9088 9170

Passcode: 684898

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,84390889170#,,, *684898# Canada
+14388097799,,84390889170#,,, *684898# Canada

I am on a short break between Boxing Day and January 2nd, to finish my leave allotment for 2020. Emergency pastoral care has been arranged and may be accessed through the church office by calling 519-653-4721 ... The church building is closed, but walking visits or coffee shop visits, video phone visits or regular phone visits remain available ☺ Have a blessing filled week, and I look forward to connecting with you in the new year.

- with love, in Christ, Pastor Janaki.

A Word from Lorre:

I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has generously allowed the use of your photographs in the making of our videos for use in our online worship services. I will still take any scenery photos you'd like to send along to be included in future videos. Full credit will of course be given. And also I want to thank everyone who has sent words of appreciation for the efforts of Brad, his guest singers to make our worship the best it can be. We have all learned quite a few new tech skills throughout 2020 and each video gets better than the ones that came before. Thank you for bearing with us and for your words of encouragement. God bless you all during this holy season. —Lorre Calder

We give thanks to God, for granting our existence on this safe, bountiful, land,
and we recognize that we thrive and enjoy life here,
on the traditional territories of
the Anishnabe, Neutral and Haudenosaunee peoples.

**Please take a few moments of silence, prepare your heart,
centre yourself for worship.**

Gathering Hymn: #278 Away in a Manger

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPmyyqi9Fz4>

Text: North American; Music William J. Kirkpatrick; (Tune: Cradle Song); Arr: David Willcocks
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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

CALL TO WORSHIP (LUCAS & JULIANNE)

What words shall we use to shape this moment, O God?

What silence is deep enough to hold the hope?

What eternity long enough to find you?

What hope broad enough to contain you?

What story old enough to tell of you?

What words shall we use to speak of you, O God?

Holy One, a New Year soon begins

so we gather this day in preparation to greet the New Year,

to remember your promises fulfilled,

and to give thanks for all that the future brings,

that we may live and worship you in 2020.

Prayer of the Day (Malachi): God of humble beginnings, today we celebrate the humble beginnings of your son, Jesus. How amazing it is, that you came into our world, the light that darkness cannot overcome, in the reality of a newborn baby. What a reminder to us that salvation and restoration and grace and mercy and the most incredible acts of love persist through all darkness. Remind us this Christmas to hold fast to humble beginnings, as we celebrate the light of Jesus, entering into darkness that fails to put out the light. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13 – Barbara Berg

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into

their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. (NRSV)

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

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289;

Debbie Lou Ludolph, soprano, Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOUszXqpu-c>

Text: French Carol; tr H. F. Hemy; Music: French Carol; Arranged by Jay Althouse, Alfred Publishing Co.
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SECOND READING: Isaiah 9: 2-7 – Sherri Wilker

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (NRSV)
Word of God, Word of Life: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Jesus, What a Wonderful Child ELW 197;

Debbie Lou Ludolph, soprano, Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59JlsulUmcl>

Text African American Traditional; Music African American Traditional; Contributor: Jeffrey Radford; arr. Bradley Moggach
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THIRD READING: Luke 2: 8-20 – Sarah Sparks

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made

known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (NRSV)

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

CAROL: In The Bleak Midwinter; Debbie Lou Ludolph, soprano, Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD1mO53agDE>

Winter Carol (In the Bleak Midwinter); Music by Sherri Porterfield, Words by Christina Rossetti; Alfred Publishing Co.

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FOURTH READING: Luke 2: 21-38 – Marlen Moggach

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant 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."

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. (NRSV)

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

MUSIC: Sussex Mummers' Carol

featuring Carmen Moggach-Laivaara, viola; Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BdaVTbgHTU>

Notated by Lucy E. Broadwood; Arrangement by Percy Grainger; Words and Music: Public Domain

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FIFTH READING: Luke 4: 14-21 – Karolyn Heubner

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day,

as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
(NRSV)

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

Carol: #266 All Earth Is Hopeful From Brad's Youtube Channel

Click Here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPiCoLnIYqO6z0eiZR-RAXw>

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SIXTH READING: John 1: 1-14 – Sandra Shantz

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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.

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

CAROL: Love Has Come #292

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9Xw4KrnCzQ&t>

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Prayers of the People – at home without ZOOM edition ☺

In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask our God for those things we need and seek:

For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas as beloved children, holding all of our griefs and losses.
God, hear our prayer. *And in your mercy, answer.*

For our families and friends, that they may be sources of constant help and support. God, hear our prayer.
And in your mercy, answer.

For all the people we have loved who have died, that the love that never dies may sustain us. God, hear our prayer. *And in your mercy, answer.*

For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer. *And in your mercy, answer.*

For peace throughout the world as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels on that faraway hillside. God, hear our prayer. *And in your mercy, answer*

For greater understanding of the lessons of love and grace as taught by Jesus your Christ. God, hear our prayer. *And in your mercy, answer.*

God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we seek, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Let us share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

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.

Sending Hymn: Each Winter as the Year Grows Older ELW 252, Bradley Moggach, Piano and Vocal

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAVcP4ybRAw>

Text: William Gay; Tune: Annabeth Gay; Text: © 1971, The Pilgrim Press

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Blessing: (Lucas)

May God bless us and keep us.
May the face of God shine upon us with grace and mercy.
May God look upon us with favor
and give us ✝ peace.
Amen.

Dismissal: Go with Jesus who is in our midst. ***Thanks be to God.***

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