



## Welcome!

We are glad that you are here and hope that you will be enriched by this time of worship. In this unprecedented time, we are exploring worship in new ways and ask for your input and patience. If you are new with us today – welcome!

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## December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas Welcome

**Gathering Song** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283)  
**Greeting**

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### First Reading

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

Read by Kathryn E

<sup>10</sup>I will joyfully exult in YHWH, who is the joy of my soul! My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, the way a bridegroom puts on a turban and a bride bedecks herself with jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden brings its seeds to blossom, so Exalted YHWH makes justice sprout, and praise spring up before all nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion’s sake, I will not be silent; for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest— not until her integrity shines like the dawn, her deliverance like a flaming torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations will see your vindication, and the rulers your splendor; you will have a new name that YHWH’s mouth will bestow. <sup>3</sup>You will be a garland of beauty in YHWH’s hands, a solemn crown worn by your God.

### Second Reading

**Galatians 4:4-7**

Read by Sandra T

<sup>4</sup>When the designated time had come, God sent forth the Christ—born of a woman, born under the Law—to deliver from the Law those who were subjected to it, <sup>5</sup>so that we might receive our status as adopted heirs. <sup>6</sup>The proof that you are children of God is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of the Child who calls out “Abba!” <sup>7</sup>You are no longer slaves, but daughters and sons! And if you are daughters and sons, you are also heirs, by God’s design.

### Children’s Time

**Gospel Canticle: “Simeon’s Song”** *Jared S*

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup>When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. <sup>23</sup>For it’s written in the Law of our God, “Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God.” <sup>24</sup>They likewise came to offer in sacrifice “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God. <sup>25</sup>Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>26</sup>She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn’t see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. <sup>27</sup>Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; <sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen the salvation <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared for all the peoples to see— <sup>32</sup>a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>As the child’s mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, <sup>34</sup>Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, <sup>35</sup>so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well.” <sup>36</sup>There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

## Sermon

### Song

“Love Has Come” (ELW 292)

### Nicene Creed

### The Prayers

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

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations and traditions. Fill us with wisdom to work together in unity to proclaim your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

All creation is holy to you O God. You cause the earth to spring up with gardens to feed us. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands in the darkest time of the year. We await longer days of awakening and growth and the light of epiphany.

Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

The Nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Inspire our leaders in Canada and in the US to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon Canadian legislators, senators and congress as they grapple with complex decisions like rolling out the vaccine, providing financial support to the unemployed and underemployed in a fair, equitable way. Help them to work together in harmony for the common good. Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts of those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, and those whose hearts are lonely due to isolation. We ask you be with all families who are separated this Christmas season due to Covid restrictions. We ask you come along side those who are living with mental illness and anxiety in these trying times. We especially pray for: Clarence M, Henry P, Tom d, Cody M, Emmitt B, Myrtle W, Ramon J, Tonia & Jason, Susan K, Tim, Janice S, Charlotte, Diana M, Brendan S, Pastor Richard R, Muriel A, Yvonne, Eva H, Darren F, AnnE & Joel Z, Diane R, the Anderson family, Roland S, Roman W, Wayne & William, Anne L, Jaxon, and Elijah P. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family. Bless our seniors with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Give energy to those who care for seniors in care homes at this time. Encourage us to help those in need of food and other necessities. Connect the young and old across generations. Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

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

### Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### 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 your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer (by Confirmation student Eric D.)

O Living Mercy,

Let love fall from the heavens.

Blessed is your true name.

We pray for Your reign of Love to come.

Give us today the things we need.

Forgive us, as we forgive others.

Untie the knots of failure,

keeping us from doing good.

Lead the people of your Kingdom,

to do good and worship you.

Amen.

### Community Life

### 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)

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**

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