

## Sunday, January 3, 2021—Second Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Instrumental Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

In-fant ho-ly, in-fant low-ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;  
Ox-en low-ing, lit-tle know-ing Christ, the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, No-els ring-ing tid-ings bring-ing  
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new  
Saw the glo-ry, heard the sto-ry – Tid-ings of a gos-pel true.  
Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor-row;  
Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

Call to Worship:

Long ago a bright star led Wise Men to the Christ-Child. If we are to be wise in our own time, we, too, must seek the Christ-Child, and follow wherever he leads. Amen!

Prayer of Invocation:

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this joyous season of Christmastide, and the Light of your Love that came down at Bethlehem so long ago. Join us as we worship you. Open our hearts to the love of the Christ-Child, and our minds to the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. Then send us into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and deeds. Amen!

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consola-

tions I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty.

Epistle Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, and forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fulness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we also have obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with a seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 the power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends this reading of the Gospel.

Instrumental Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

vs 1 & 3

In the bleak mid-win-ter, frost-y wind made moan,  
 Earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
 Snow had fal-len, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 In the bleak mid-win-ter, long a – go.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shep-herd, 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.

## Prayers of the People and 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!

Sermon: "Creative Love at Work in the Word"

Instrumental Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Lord, dis-miss us with thy bless-ing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each, thy love pos-sess-ing, tri-umph in re-deem-ing grace.  
O re-fresh us, O re-fresh us, trav-eling through this wil-der-ness.

Thanks we give and ad-o-ra-tion for thy gos-pel's joy-ful sound;  
May the fruits of thy sal-va-tion in our hearts and lives a-bound.  
Ev-er faith-ful, ev-er faith-ful to thy truth may we be found.

## Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

God of Grace and gifts, who blesses us on life's journey, we give you thanks for all that you have so freely given. Inspired by your generosity, we seek to be generous as well. Receive our tithes and offerings with your blessing, that they may accomplish all that you intend. Amen!

Communion

Benediction

Postludes

***Birthday Blessings***  
***Karen Wolf Jan 7***

**Please take your bulletin home with you this morning.**