

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2017

Christmas is a season set apart by both the story and the songs. Today you will hear the story, the song, and the story behind the songs. During the announcements, you also will be invited to request your own favorites for us to sing during the distribution of Holy Communion.

- Gathering -

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most

High, ☩ one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Gracious God, **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ☩ Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Introduction and Prayer of the Day

O God Incarnate, **we praise you for coming into the world as a child. We ponder the marvelous mystery of your love as we hear your Word and sing our praises. Thank you for hymn writers who left a rich heritage of songs. Bless our singing, as we rejoice in the gift we call Christmas! We pray in the name of the child. Amen.**

- Word -

God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.

Gospel *(before reading: **Glory to you, O Lord.** after: **Praise to you, O Christ!**)*

Gospel *(Luke 2:1-20)*

Hymn Story

Hymn – #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn Story

Hymn – #268 (V. 1-4) From Heaven Above

Hymn Story

Hymn – #275 Angels From the Realms of Glory

Hymn Story

Hymn – #282 (V. 1-2) It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn Story

Hymn – #281 Silent Night

Hymn Story

Hymn – #267 Joy to the World

Prayers of the People and Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Hymn – #294 (V. 3) In the Bleak Midwinter

Offering Prayer, Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 190

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Distribution of Bread and Wine

All who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Hymns (*requested at the start of worship*)

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Closing Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this
Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now
and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn – #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**