

**December 27, 2020**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lessons and Carols

**Call to Worship**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray, Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**First reading**

Genesis 3: 8-15

**Carol "Love Has Come"**

#292

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## Second Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

**Carol** "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

#288

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 for evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

## Third reading

Micah 5: 2-4

**Carol** "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

#275

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight over all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

## Fourth reading

Matthew 1:18-23

**Carol** "Infant holy"

#276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## **Fifth reading**

John 1: 1-14

### **Reflection**

#### **Prayers of the people**

God of life, God of new life,  
by the birth of Jesus  
you have brought light into our darkness.  
Shine in our lives.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
nothing will ever separate us from your love.  
Give us faith to trust your promise.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
you call us to serve the hungry, the poor,  
the lonely and the outcast.  
Show us how we can respond.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
Jesus was born into poverty  
and lived under oppression.  
Open our eyes to injustice,  
and inspire us to proclaim your reign.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
by the birth of Jesus,  
bring your healing to those in need,  
especially those we name before you.

[Pause]

Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
inspire this congregation  
to reach out beyond our walls,  
beyond our fears, beyond our past.  
Help us to welcome your future.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

God of life, God of new life,  
by the birth of Jesus  
you have brought light into our darkness.  
Shine in our lives.  
Christ Jesus, by your coming,  
**Set us free for ministry.**

We pray in the name of Jesus,  
our light, our life, and our hope.  
**Amen.**

### **Offering prayer**

God of all good gifts,  
who gives freely to us,  
have mercy on us and grant us the peace  
that only the Prince of Peace can provide.

Grant that our lives would be an offering,  
and that our work would be a good gift,  
just as the gifts that the magi brought,  
pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

## **Benediction**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

You are the shepherds telling the story.

**We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

You are the angels announcing peace.

**We live with joy and go now in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Bidding Carol**      “Jesus What a Wonderful Child”    #297

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild:

New life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

“Glory, glory, glory,”

Let the heavens ring!

## **Sending**

Go in peace, share the light of Christ!

**Thanks be to God!**

Accompanist: Chris Starr