

WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



Gathering Music (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.
Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.

Alleluia...

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Opening Sentences

In the beginning, when it was dark, God said, "Let there be light."
And there was light.

(The sign of light - a lighted candle - is placed on a central table.)

In the beginning, when it was quiet, The Word was with God.
And the Word was God.

(The sign of the Word - an open Bible - is placed on the table.)

When the time was right, God sent His Son.
He came among us and was one of us.

(The Sign of the Son - a cross - is placed on the table.)

Song of Prayer: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

Leader The God of Love is with us.
People **The Spirit of love is in us.**
Leader Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen**
Leader Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires are known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. We ask you to be present at all times in our thoughts and our hearts, and to purify them, so that we may love you with the love of the Holy Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Eventide

Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him; praise him angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, all ye stars of light.

Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious never shall his promise fail;
God hath made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his Name.

The Word of God

Deuteronomy 2 Kings 2:1–12

Now the Lord was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?" Elisha said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!" Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went to Jericho. The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?" He said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!" Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So both of them went on together. Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit." Elijah said, "You've made a difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen." They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the

two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm. Elisha was watching, and he cried out, “Oh, my father, my father! Israel’s chariots and its riders!” When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1–6

From the rising of the sun to where it sets,
 God, the Lord God, speaks,
 calling out to the earth.
From Zion, perfect in beauty,
 God shines brightly.
Our God is coming;
 he won’t keep quiet.
A devouring fire is before him;
 a storm rages all around him.
God calls out to the skies above
 and to the earth in order to judge his people:
“Bring my faithful to me,
 those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
The skies proclaim his righteousness
 because God himself is the judge.

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are on the road to destruction. The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don’t have faith so they couldn’t see the light of the gospel that reveals Christ’s glory. Christ is the image of God. We don’t preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel:

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. (9:2–9)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Message

Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

Prayers of the People

Leader Lord Jesus Christ,
People **Be with us, within us, behind us and before us.**

Leader We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity,
People **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three; and claim our place in your community of love.**

Leader We are embraced, loving God, in the community that is the heart not just of our church, but also in the community that is the very heart of who you are,
People **Three in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Leader Within that great love, we are held and treasured. Lord, hear our prayers this evening;
People **We pray for our hurting world.**

Leader That war-makers will find peace. That the hungry will find food. That refugees will find shelter. That injustice will be answered with all that is right and good.
People **We pray for all who suffer.**

Leader For those we love dearly. For those we barely know. For those whose suffering, we have ignored. Be present in the healing touch of all hands that help the sick and suffering. And send your Spirit to comfort and protect all who need you.
People **We pray for all who struggle.**

Leader For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial realities, emotional darkness, and deep, deep loneliness. May we find you even in the most helpless places. And may we, your people, be present also in those places, bringing Good News and hope to all who are longing for the true life that only you can provide.
People **We pray for all who are joyful.**

Leader We rejoice at the promise of new life, and the goodness of each new day. We celebrate the movement through milestones: births, graduations, new jobs, new relationships; and the hopes that they bring. We remember those moments of blessing in our own lives and we thank you for the opportunity to use our lives to your glory, to live lives that are full and worthy of your calling.
We lift up to you, Lord, the prayers that you've placed on our hearts in our own words at this time...

We will intentionally PAUSE for the community present to share their requests, thanksgivings, desires, hopes & joys either out loud or silently.

We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity.

People **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three: and claim our place in your community of love.**

Leader Lord Jesus Christ

People **Be with us, within us, behind us, before us. Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.
I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

We need your healing, merciful God:

give us true repentance.

Some sins are plain to us;

some escape us,

some we cannot face.

Forgive us;

set us free to hear your word to us;

set us free to serve you.

The Celebrant continues

God forgives you.

Forgive others;

forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:
approach your God in peace.

The Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Music at the Offertory: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you
created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself,
as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.
Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he
died for us Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human
hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ.
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us
with all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer (*Celebrant and People*)

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Music during Eucharist: (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

*One bread, one body, One Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, Servant or free,
Woman or man, No more. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, Many the works,
One in the Lord, Of all. *Refrain*

Grain for the fields, Scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, For all. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Prayer (*Celebrant and People*)

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Night Prayer

Lord,
It is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
What has not been done has not been done;
Let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
And in our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
All dear to us,
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
New joys,
New possibilities.

In your name we pray. **AMEN**

Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. **AMEN.**

Closing Song

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us".

Dismissal



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