

January 3, 2021

#### **Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Prelude** 

Christmas Pastorale

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Katie Miller

# \*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

\* Let us rise in body or spirit.

#### Call to Worship

Laura Mitchell, liturgist

God reigns; let the earth rejoice.

Praise the God who dreams a Beloved Community.

Even when our sight is dimmed, and we cannot see clearly, the Beloved Community is already present in creation.

God holds the vision, and we are part of it.

God offers us rebirth and renewal.

May this worship open us to the gifts of God.

\*Processional Hymn

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



#### \*Invocation

Savior of the world, we are your people, rescued and redeemed. We break forth in joyful song. Send your light to guide us on our way. We will share your good news that a child has come, renewing the world. Together, we glorify and praise your Holy Name. Amen.

\*Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

#### Conversation with the Children

**Psalm Lesson** 

Psalm 147:1-11

**Epistle Lesson** 

Ephesians 1:3-14

For the Word of God in scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us, Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Plan for the Fullness of Time

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

\*Hymn

**Brightest and Best** 



An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Just and righteous God, the child in the manger leads us back to you. We want to rediscover faithfulness and joy. Draw us away from cynicism and fear. We repent of all that distracts us from you. Renew us now, as we seek our freedom in Christ. Amen.

#### \*Words of Assurance

God hears our cries and listens to our silent longings. God penetrates our doubts and fears with good news of great joy. We are beloved children of God, forgiven and set free.

#### **Prayers**

**Pastoral Prayer** 

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### Offertory

Sweet Little Jesus Boy *Lyn Bouma* 

## \*Hymn of Dedication

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God whom we adore. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel!

# \*Offertory Prayer

Wonder-making God, your gifts are surprising, beyond our expectations. Like the shepherds and the magi, we bring our gifts to you. May they be blessed for the work of gathering a Beloved Community and bringing salvation to all. Amen.

#### **Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

We give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all. We give thanks that you invite us to rejoice, enough for all. Take us deeper into the mystery of your abundant life: a world healed and renewed; all nature and all people at peace. And now we join our voices with those of all created beings in Heaven, and on Earth singing:

Holy, Holy, God, you are holy. Ruler of the sea and sky. Angel hosts above adore you. Earth sings out its endless cry: "Hail, hosanna in the highest!"

"Peace on earth," the heav'ns reply.

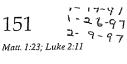
Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

The Bread and Cup

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** 

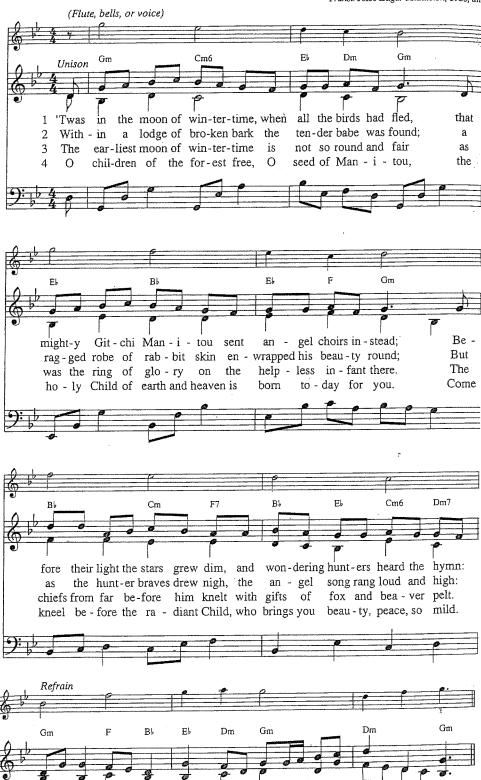
\*Recessional Hymn

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



### 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Jean de Brébeuf, c. 1643 Transl. Jesse Edgar Middleton, 1926; alt.



#### \*Benediction

### **Postlude**

Lift Up Your Heads

#### **Open & Affirming Statement**

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

# **Announcements January 3, 2021**

Prayers: for our frontline workers.

Happy Birthday this week: to Eli Bock, Else Richards Bailey, Matt Schalles, Chris Steffen, Valerie Garver, and Elliott Mitchell.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

# Activities for the Coming Week, January 4 – January 9

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

Monday:

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Vespers, 6 p.m., FaceBook Live

Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Friday:

Annual reports due!

## **Sunday, January 10**

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

