

# *Second Sunday after Christmas*

## *January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021*

*A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.*

Prelude: *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

*C. Callahan*

Welcome

Opening Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

**Refrain** Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

4 See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. **Refrain**

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: The night is far spent, and the day is at hand:

**All: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

Children's Talk

### ***The Proclamation of the Word***

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, the 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 fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also 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 the 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.

*Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.*

Gradual Hymn: *He Came Down*

1 He came down that we may have Love, alleluia forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have Life, alleluia forevermore.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (1:1-18).

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

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 power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of 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.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn: *He Came Down*

3 He came down that we may have Peace, alleluia forevermore.

Sermon

Rev. Canon Susan Oliver

The Apostle's Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

***Intercessions and Thanksgivings***

Dear friends in Christ, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Collect***

God of power and life, the glory of all who believe in you, fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**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 and 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, forever, Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

### ***The Blessing***

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. **Amen**

Closing Hymn: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**Refrain** Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. **Refrain**

3 Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

4 When I am a seeker, I seek both night and day.  
I seek the Lord to help me, and He shows me the way. **Refrain**

5 He made me a watchman upon the city wall,  
and if I am a Christian, I am the least of all. **Refrain**

Postlude

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.*

*This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.*

*And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON  
LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared  
by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee*

*Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>*

*Blessing for face masks from the American International Church, London, UK and found online at <https://youtu.be/-9qibk1wVpE>*

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