

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



December 25th
Christmas Day

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Holy among us!
Our spirits rejoice in the Way-Making God!
For God regards us with compassion and calls creation blessed.
God's mercy echoes through generations.
God scatters the imagination of the proud
into open fields of solidarity.
God puts down the mighty from their seats
and exalts those who care for their neighbors and planet home.
God nourishes the hungry
and sends exploiters away with empty spirits.
Our souls magnify the Holy among us!
Our spirits rejoice in the Way-Making God!

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.
Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory – ELW 275
verses 1, 3, 4

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How welcome upon the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good news –
who announces peace,
and brings news of happy things,
and proclaims deliverance,
saying to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy –
for they see with their own eyes
YHWH’s restoration of Zion!
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For YHWH comforts the people,
and redeems Jerusalem.
YHWH bares a holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God!

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

Joy to the World – ELW 267
verse 1

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to YHWH,
who has worked wonders,
whose right hand and holy arm
have brought deliverance!

**YHWH has made salvation known
and shown divine justice to the nations,**
and has remembered in truth and love
the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

**Shout to the Most High, all the earth,
break into joyous songs of praise!**

Sing praise to YHWH with the harp,
with the harp and melodious singing!

**With trumpets and the blast of the shofar,
raise a shout to YHWH, Ruler of All.**

Let the sea and all within it thunder;
the world and all its peoples.

**Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy before YHWH,**
who comes to judge the earth,
who will rule the world with justice
and its peoples with equity.

Hymn Response

Joy to the World – ELW 267
verse 2

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

Joy to the World – ELW 267
verse 3

Gospel: John: 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

In the beginning
there was the Word;
and the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God
from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being,
and apart from the Word
nothing came into being.
In the Word was life,
and that life was humanity's light –
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.
Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to
testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He
himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Lord – the true Light
that illumines all humankind.
The Word was coming into the world –
was in the world –
and though the world
was made through the Word
the world didn't recognize it.
Though the Word came to its own realm,
the Word's own people didn't accept it.
Yet any who did accept the Word,
who believed in that Name,
were empowered to become children of God –
children born not of natural descent,
nor urge of flesh
nor human will –
but born of God.
And the Word became flesh
and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory –
the favor and position a parent gives an only child –
filled with grace,
filled with truth.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

Joy to the World – ELW 267
verse 4

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – ELW 270
verses 1-3

Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Disciples' Prayer – *sung to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth – in heav'n the same. Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be; into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You in grateful love we bow; and Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now. The glory Yours; Your praise be sung by angel hosts and all in ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.

- Sending -

Announcements

Sending Song:

Go Tell it on the Mountain – ELW 290
verses 1-3

A Christmas Charge

from "enfleshed"

God takes on flesh
and joins life in the struggle –
this is what radical solidarity feels like.
Lives and souls and bodies entangled.
Risks and possibilities shared.
We're in this together.
The mess, the beauty, the work.
Don't be afraid to feel hopeful.
God's promises are kept.
God won't opt-out or turn away.
God won't give up when things get tough.
God won't defend power, or privilege, or institutions, or tradition
at the expense of freedom, or love, or liberation, or your worth.
God's with-ness is birthed at the margins.
God knows what's at stake.
Let all who are weary, rejoice!
All of evil's deceptions will be revealed
and fear of unjust powers will cease.
The Liberating One now dwells among us,
calling upon hearts from all walks of life
to open. to take courage. to soften. to release.
Behold, the Sacred enfleshed reveals the way of Love

Benediction & Dismissal

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.
Amen.

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God!



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