



Sunday, January 10, 2021



Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed by the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God. **Amen.**

Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-- our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, you are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same start three wisemen came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the start wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev'rently upon their knee;
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

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.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music: Sam Simataa, Vocals & Emily Rudquist, Piano

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message: Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Sermon Notes:

Hymn of the Day: Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.

On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light; all the stars above were paling,
all their luster slowly failing as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.

Sages from the east afar, when they saw this wondrous star, went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.

Him they found in Bethlehem, yet he wore no diadem; there they saw a maiden lowly
with an infant pure and holy resting in her loving arms, resting in her loving arms.

Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound. We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.

And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ the way, the truth, the life.

Prayers

P: Hear us, O God, C: **Your mercy is great.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 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 & Dismissal

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good
news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus

Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be lead by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee,
whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.



PRAYERCARE

The family of Doris Fors, Ann Rue, Helen Swanson, the Hackmann Family, the family of Joe Mallery, Dan Petersen, Julie Valez, the family of Margaret Dale, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg, the family of Brian Maloney, Leo Nelson, Caren Carlson, Rose Anderson, Gail Johnson & the rest of David Clow's family, Yutaro Nakanishi, the family of Annie Lindgren, Cheryl Slattengren, the family of John Solheim, and Deb & Jerry Rhoads and family of Marilyn Burnes, Darlene Mueller, Donna Lindgren, Don Grover, Vicki Ford, Dave Danberg, Geri Swenson and the family of Andy Swenson, the family of Duane Rudquist, Caroline Greene, and Nia Glynn.

Need Pastoral Care?

Call Pastor Dwight 651-829-4884

Have questions or in need of something?

Church Office: 651-465-5265

Office Hours:

Monday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Tuesday 8:30am - 12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am - 11:30am

Email: parishc@tflutheran.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wendy Szczepanski

Craig Loen

Miriam Flysjo

Becky Hulden

Rose Anderson

Video Credits

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Toni Brekke: Organ

Natalie Landgreen: Vocals

Sam Simataa: Vocals & Special Music

Emily Rudquist: Vocals & Special Music, Piano

Kelly Luschen: Lector

Carli Linngren: Photography

Angie Linngren: Photography, Filming & Editing

Intergenerational Faith Formation:

Library Day

- Library and Archives Trail Map: A Guide to Resources (found on our website)
- Book video: Eleanore Collins shares the book "The Three Wise Men"
- Swedish words of the month:

Herren är i sitt heliga temple

"the Lord is in His holy temple"

(originally stenciled above the central arch at the front of the church)

Frid vare med eder

"Peace be with you"

(originally stenciled on the wall to the left of the central arch, above the pulpit)

Se, jag kommer snart

"Watch, I come soon"

(originally stenciled on the wall to the right of the central arch)

January Books:

Children's: Come Worship with Me: A Journey Through the Church Year by Ruth Boling. In this colorful and beautifully illustrated children's book, Advent, Sunday, Easter, and more come alive as the mice trace the journey of the church year and invite children of all ages to worship.

Youth: Treasures of the Snow, by Patricia M. St. John A story of revenge and repentance.

Fiction: Miracles of Marble Cove #7: A Midnight Clear by Patti Berg. It's Christmastime, and surprises and miracles abound!

Biographies: Meet Me on the Mountain by William J. Peterson. How much like Elijah are you? At times he felt discouraged, yet he knew the God of Israel in a personal way and trusted and obeyed him.

Large Print: No Wonder They Call Him the Savior by Max Lucado. Max Lucado leads us up the hill of mankind's highest hope and reminds us why Jesus is our Savior.