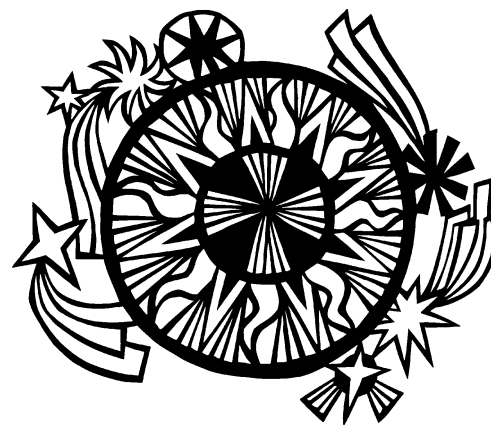


Worship at Home Contemporary Service

January 3, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
 Second Sunday of Christmas
zionlutheranaberdeen.org
 Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
 Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
 The First Noel*

Emily Mason Porter
 Frederick Frahm

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
 the Power of the Most High, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gathered in the name of Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,
 in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our sin against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may trust the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

People of God, I bring you good news of great joy: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord! For his sake God forgives you all your sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Made to Worship

Before the day, before the light.
 Before the world revolved around the sun.
 God on high stepped down into time
 And wrote the story of His love for everyone.
 He has filled our hearts with wonder.
 So that we always remember;

You and I were made to worship
 You and I are called to love.
 You and I are forgiven and free.
 When you and I embrace surrender,
 When you and I choose to believe
 Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

All we are, and all we have.
 Is all a gift from God that we receive.
 Brought to life we open our eyes,
 To see the majesty and glory of the king.
 He has filled our hearts with wonder.
 So that we always remember;

You and I were made to worship
 You and I are called to love.
 You and I are forgiven and free.
 When you and I embrace surrender,
 When you and I choose to believe
 Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

Even the rocks cry out,
 Even the heavens shout,
 At the sound of His Holy name.
 So let every voice sing out
 Let every knee bow down
 He's worthy of all our praise

You and I were made to worship
 You and I are called to love.
 You and I are forgiven and free.
 When you and I embrace surrender,
 When you and I choose to believe
 Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.

May the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastor Tim Sersen

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

The Message

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Oh yes, GOD says so:

"Shout for joy at the top of your lungs for Jacob!

Announce the good news to the number-one nation!

Raise cheers! Sing praises. Say,

'God has saved his people,
 saved the core of Israel.'

⁸ "Watch what comes next:

"I'll bring my people back
 from the north country

And gather them up from the ends of the earth,
 gather those who've gone blind

And those who are lame and limping,
 gather pregnant women,

Even the mothers whose birth pangs have started,
 bring them all back, a huge crowd!

⁹“Watch them come! They’ll come weeping for joy
 as I take their hands and lead them,
 Lead them to fresh flowing brooks,
 lead them along smooth, uncluttered paths.
 Yes, it’s because I’m Israel’s Father
 and Ephraim’s my firstborn son!
¹⁰⁻¹⁴“Hear this, nations! God’s Message!
 Broadcast this all over the world!
 Tell them, ‘The One who scattered Israel
 will gather them together again.
 From now on he’ll keep a careful eye on them,
 like a shepherd with his flock.’
 I, GOD, will pay a stiff ransom price for Jacob;
 I’ll free him from the grip of the Babylonian bully.
 The people will climb up Zion’s slopes shouting with joy,
 their faces beaming because of GOD’s bounty—
 Grain and wine and oil,
 flocks of sheep, herds of cattle.
 Their lives will be like a well-watered garden,
 never again left to dry up.
 Young women will dance and be happy,
 young men and old men will join in.
 I’ll convert their weeping into laughter,
 lavishing comfort, invading their grief with joy.
 I’ll make sure that their priests get three square meals a day
 and that my people have more than enough.” GOD’s Decree.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20

(read responsively)

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
 praise your God, O Zion,
¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
 and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
 a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
 scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs.

Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (I am the Light of the World)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Tim Sersen

SONG OF THE DAY

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
 God of Glory, Lord of Love.
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
 Praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness.
 Drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
 Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays.
 Stars and angels sing around thee,
 Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea.
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
 Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest.
 Wellspring of the joy of living,
 Ocean depth of happy rest.
 Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
 All who live in love are thine.
 Teach us how to love each other,
 Lift us to the joy divine.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 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,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dwelling in the good news of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church,
 the world, and all in need.

Prayer response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all
 for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving that has continued during this time! Ministry at this time depends on regular giving. If you would like to give online now, you can use this QR code scanner on your smart phone to be directed to the Giving page on our website. You can also mail your offerings in to the church.



OFFERING SONG*Jesus, What a Beautiful Name*

Jesus, what a beautiful name.
 Son of God, Son of Man, Lamb that was slain.
 Joy and peace, strength and hope,
 Grace that blows all fear away,
 Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name,
 Truth revealed, my future sealed, healed my pain.
 Love and freedom, life and warmth,
 Grace that blows all fear away.
 Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name,
 Rescued my soul, my stronghold lifts me from shame.
 Forgiveness, security, power and love,
 Grace that blows all fear away.
 Jesus, what a beautiful name.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave 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.
 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.**

BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth,
 give you peace this Christmas and always.
 Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG*Sing for Joy*

If we call to Him, He will answer us.
If we run to Him, He will run to us.
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up.
Come now praise His name, all you saints of God.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.

Draw near to Him, He is here with us.
Give Him your love, He's in love with us.
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands,
If we rend our hearts, He will heal our land.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.

If we call to Him, He will answer us.
If we run to Him, He will run to us.
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up.
Come now praise His name, all you saints of God.

Draw near to Him, He is here with us.
Give Him your love, He's in love with us.
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands,
If we rend our hearts, He will heal our land.

Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.

Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.

SENDING WORDS

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the good news of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Valerie Shields

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Leading worship today:

Pastor Tim Sersen

Pastoral Assistant Saundra Anderson

Judy Albl, lector

Sonya Kempf, organist

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Kara Pies, vocalist

Stacy Geffre, vocalist