



Order of Worship

2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

Call to worship:

Come to worship, people of God

We come ready to be embraced by God's love and grace

We come open to the Spirit moving among us

Come to worship, people of God

We come ready to embody God's love and grace

We come open to being Christ's hands and feet

Call to confession:

As we enter this new year, let us pause to confess our old ways of sin and embrace each new opportunity Christ presents us. Let us confess our sins.

Prayer of confession

Christ our Savior, you have empowered us to become children of God, but we doubt our power and our ability to create change. We excuse ourselves from necessary action citing priorities that are not yours. We deny the gifts and talents with which you have blessed us to embody love and work for justice. Forgive us. Merciful God. Remind us how much we have to offer. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Luke 6:37*)

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Prayer for illumination

Meet us in this moment of proclamation, God. Enliven us with your Spirit. Motivate us with your Word. Remind us of your commands. Challenge us to live in your way. Hold us accountable to do more than sing and pray. Amen.



Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call for the offering *(1 John 3:17)*

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's
goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?"
Friends, let us abide in God and share our gifts in love.



Prayer of dedication

May these gifts be blessed by your grace, O God, so that they may provide healing and hope. May we embody your Word as we move through this week, living justly, acting generously, speaking with truth, compassion and grace. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

God of the nations, your star has risen in the night sky guiding us to Christ, your son. The radiance of your Word made flesh fills us with awe and wonder. Keeping our eyes fixed on the glory of Christ, we pause here to lift our earthly concerns and our human needs to you in prayer.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

In the aftermath of devastating storms, when the earth feels set against us and the climate rebels from our abuse, guide us, Creator, into right relationship with the natural world. Help us heal and restore the earth even as we work to rebuild homes, businesses, churches, and communities after storms. We are grateful for the home Mother Earth provides. May we learn to live with her in peace.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Redeemer God, as anxiety spreads over the Omicron variant, guide us in wise decision-making, faithful leadership and responsible action. May the health and safety of our communities, our vulnerable populations and our essential workers be foremost in our thoughts. Restrain our impatience, our impulsive desires to return to business-as-usual before it is safe. Protect us and those we love from the danger of disease.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

God of Grace, comfort those for whom this new year brings not promise but pain. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones in 2021. We pray for those who can't find their way to hope.

We understand those who don't want to begin again, who are frustrated by change, who want a clear and certain path forward. Encourage us, God, and walk with us into this new and uncertain landscape. Guide us in your path of peace.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

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United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **“Our Father...”**

Charge and benediction

Hold on to what is good.

Embody God’s grace.

Move forward with Christ in mission and ministry.

May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you, this Sunday and forevermore. Amen.

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