



Order of Worship

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 26th, 2021

Call to worship *(From the hymn "Joy to the World!")*

Leader: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

People: Let earth receive her king!

Call to confession

As we enter this new Christmas season and approach this new year, let us set aside our old ways of sin and embrace each new opportunity Christ presents us. Let us confess our sins.

Prayer of confession

Christ our Savior, forgive us for our dishonesty, our ignorance, our apathy towards growing in faith. Forgive our resentment and anger, the ways we dominate and divide. Clothe us in your new garments of compassion, kindness, humility and patience. Help us to embrace your peace and surrender to your extraordinary love. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(From the hymn "We three kings of Orient are")*

O star of wonder, star of night ...
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

Open us to hearing and receiving the scriptures that are read and your Word that is proclaimed, Holy God, with joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

Scripture readings



Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(From the "Book of Common Worship")*

Christ Jesus, *Phil. 2:5-11*
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Call for the offering

We are the stewards of God's good gifts. Let us present our tithes
and offerings in faithful response to God's generosity.

Prayer of dedication

May our gifts offer healing and hope. May our lives reflect your
love. May our actions serve your will, God of grace and glory.
Amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Come, let us adore him ...

We adore you, Savior God, Root of Jesse, Ruler of Nations, Newborn King. We give thanks for the star that led us to this long-awaited hope and the season of Advent that prepared us for your extraordinary birth.

Come, let us adore him ...

We adore you, Savior God, born fragile, vulnerable and human. We pray for those most vulnerable in our society: the sick, the marginalized, the abused, the poor and homeless. We pray for those who are bone-weary from work, those who feel helpless and hopeless. Empower and encourage them by your Spirit, O God.

Come, let us adore him ...

We adore you, Savior God, for being with us in the flesh, for entering our world and experiencing our humanity, for redeeming and sustaining us in each and every moment. We pray for those who feel misunderstood, for those who are angry and those who have been dealt with unjustly. We pray for the victims of violence and for those who turn to violence as the answer. We pray to the Prince of Peace to heal us and guide us in the path of peace.

Come, let us adore him ...

We adore you, Savior God, for the way you came and continue to come in mystery and in might. You enter our world, our joy and our pain, making our hearts burn with thanksgiving. May our lives be gifts of praise to you. May our Christmas joy turn us towards each other with compassion, respect and kindness. May we cloth ourselves in dignity and love each other as you love us.

Holy and astounding God, we have seen the reflection of your glory and celebrated your love born again. Help us bear witness to Christ in our lives and in our prayers.

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **"Our Father ..."**



Charge and benediction (*From the hymn “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
That Jesus Christ is born!

May God bless you, keep you, and encourage you
this Sunday and forevermore. Amen.

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