

Order of Worship January 2, 2022
Second Sunday of Christmas

Gathering Music

Steven Johnson

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

AWAY IN A MANGER, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay, close by us forever and love us, we pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Call to Worship

Liturgist

(One) “O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.”
We gather to praise you!

(Many) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

(One) “O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens. ”We gather to celebrate you!

**(Many) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...
And God saw that it was good... We gather to celebrate our God.**

(One) “O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.”We gather to worship you!

(Many) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

and created all of us in God's own image...

(ALL) And God saw that it was very good...

We gather to worship our God!

All praise, honor, majesty and power belongs to our Creating God! Amen

Hymn of Praise:

O WORSHIP THE KING, all glorious above!

O gratefully sing, God's power and God's love

Our shield and defender the Ancient of Days

Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Preparing for the Word

Call to confession

Liturgist

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better,
and then just go on living the same way we always have.

Let this be the moment, when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness,
so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope. Join me as we pray,

Prayer of confession

(Choir) Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**(ALL) Lord our God, we Your people come to You this day
fully aware that we need your presence and your help in our lives,
yet aware as well that we often fail to stop and to turn to you for that help.
We get caught up in the troubles and the turmoils of daily living—
we become busy with the goals that we have set for ourselves
and those that come to us from our work and our families and our friends.**

*(Choir) Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

**(ALL) We strive to be loving, we seek joy and peace,
we desire to be gentle and patient and kind,
to show goodness, and to have self-control—
and yet these things all too often elude us.**

*(Choir) Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

**(ALL) Help us, Lord, to root ourselves more deeply in you;
to seek your will for our lives;
to stop and to listen for your voice when we are troubled;
to fully rely on you when we strive to do what is right;
to remember you and trust in you when we are assaulted;
to meditate on your goodness and your gracious will when we begin each day—
so that like trees by a stream which send down their roots to the water,
we may produce by your power the fruit of your Spirit.**

Words of forgiveness

Liturgist

Jesus gives us a new heart and a new spirit:

He is the end and the new beginning of all that is, including our lives.

Jesus breathes Holy Spirit on all of us and makes us new again.

Believe and rejoice in the good news:

(ALL) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

Hearing the Word

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for illumination:

Liturgist

Dear Lord, speak to us through your Word today,

that we may hear you calling us out of the wilderness places in our lives
and into new places you have promised to show us.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 8

Liturgist

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them, people that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hymn:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

New Testament Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7 Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God

Sermon: Beginning again: Celebration and Challenge

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Hymn Anthem: *This is a Day of New Beginnings*

This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference,

As faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us,
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new

(LEN)

**In faith we'll gather round the table,
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.**

Gathering at the Lord's Table

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Come.
Come with your doubts, come with your hopes,
come with your inadequacies and with your strengths.
Come,
for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord, we greet you this New Year,
for you have been at work in our world throughout all time.
You made all things and called them good.
You claimed your people Israel,
freed them from the bondage of Egypt,
and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the promised land.
You sent prophets to call your people back to you.
Then in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus,
Immanuel, born the King of Angels,
your Word in flesh appearing.

He was one of us and lived with us,
giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole.
And yet you raised him up again
to overcome the power of death and live a new life.
Still we wait for the day
when we too will share the fullness of life through him, in him and with him.
And so, O God, make yourself know among us this day.
Show us your presence in this bread and this cup,
and make this bread we break and this cup we bless the body and blood of Christ. Amen

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,
made us members of the body of Christ
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:
we thank you that as we have received the body and blood of Christ at this table,
you renewed your promises within us,
empowered us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out now as disciples of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist

To God, whose giving knows no ending,
we offer up the treasures that God has entrusted to us;
we offer up the skills and time that God has graciously given to us;
we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
Let us bring our offerings to the Lord that God may multiply and use them
through the power of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

Prayers of the people

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Gracious God,
we remember the concerns and prayers
that have been lifted up this past week
by members of this congregation and our community—
concerns and prayers that we now pray for with them:

- * For all those who are lonely, fearful or in pain
- * for those who struggling with addictions and dependencies

that cripple their living and harm the world about them...
*for those stricken with natural and unnatural disasters,
*for the struggles and striving among nations and people,
For those who seek to lead and those who fear to follow,
For justice among those treated unjustly
Lord, hear our prayer...

We pray too, O Lord,
for those who come fresh to our minds and hearts this day:
perhaps a family member we have prayed for over many weeks or years,
or a friend who is struggling to find meaning in his life,
an acquaintance who needs healing,
a stranger who needs the comfort of your Spirit as they grieve.
Lord, hear now your people as they pray
Lord, hear our prayer...

Thank you, Lord, for being our God and making us your people.
Thank you for growing in us and for helping us to grow.
Thank you for the ministry you entrust to us.
May your will be done in us and by us,
both now and forevermore we pray, as Jesus taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! GTG #305
Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend: let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Benediction

May God, our glorious Father,

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

open the eyes of our hearts, so that we might see
the hope to which God is calling us,
the richness of the inheritance God has prepared for us,
and the power that is at work among us.
We go forth in confidence, in hope, and in the grace of God!
Amen

Postlude

Steven Johnson