

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Centering Music: Huron Carol arr. Alfred V. Fedak TUNE: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE *French Canadian melody

Call to Worship:

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth

You have set your glory above the heavens

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise

Because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger

When I consider the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and stars which you have set in place

What is man that you are mindful of him, the Son of Man that you care for him?

You have made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.

All flocks and herds, the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, all that swim in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

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.

Refrain:

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.

(Refrain)

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

[Refrain]

This star drew nigh 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.

[Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

[Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

O God our Father in Heaven, we come to you now at the turning of the year, when the busy-ness of celebration and buying and selling, giving and receiving have distracted us from the stillness where we know that you are God. We have put so much effort into creating a sense of wonder and excitement for ourselves and those close to us, and extending that experience to those around us who may be in need in this wintry and, for some, hungry time. We see the light returning to the sky as the days

lengthen minute by minute, and we pray that the true light of our lives, which is your love, shown to us through Jesus your Son, may shine in our hearts as we look away from what we can do and what we want from the holidays, and look again to you for the sense of wonder that we can only find in your presence. Amen

Words of Assurance

Cease your fearful fretting. God's love is lavished upon us. It is always there for you, offering healing and hope. Rest in God's love.

Dedication of Offerings

Special Music [Welcome to Our World](#) Words & music by Chris Rice

Children's Chat: *Happy New Year*

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

⁷For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

John 1: 1-18

In 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.

Message: *Welcoming the Light*

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Departing Music Postlude on Two Carols arr. David Kidwell

Tunes: ANTIOCH and THE FIRST NOWELL by Lowell Mason (traditional English)