

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**DECEMBER 27, 2020
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC SET

“The First Noel”
“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
“Away in a Manger”
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Joy to the World” (Wilson)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96, Selected Verses

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

HYMNS (seated)

Congregational Selections (pp. 108-156)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, our Advent waiting is done; we welcome the Christ child with joy and humility, knowing, but not fully comprehending, that you have come to live with us and among us in this child. Now we await his return in glory when all creation will be restored.

Forgive us, we pray, when we lose our sense of awe and thanksgiving in the mundane affairs of living. Forgive us when we allow the cares of the world to dominate our thoughts and actions. Forgive us when we live as those who have no Savior, when in truth we have your Beloved Son, the Anointed One. Remold our hearts and minds, so that we may always be thankful and joyful as we follow the one who came and who will come again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 61:10-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Galatians 4:4-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Luke 2:22-35

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“One With Us” (Reflections on Hymn #140)

HYMNS (seated)

Congregational Selections (pp. 108-156)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Confession of 1967*

The reconciliation of humanity through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations.

The church calls all persons to use their abilities, possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in society that raise human hopes for better conditions and provide them with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“What Child Is This” (Peery)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Astounding God, your servants Simeon and Anna raised songs of jubilant praise when they recognized your Anointed One, a child. Simeon cried out with joy, “My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples!” May we also sing your praise with all that we are, each day, to your glory and to his glory and to the glory of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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.**

SENDING

HYMNS (seated)

Congregational Selections (pp. 108-156)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

"Joy to the World" (Handel)

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.