

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020 | 10AM



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
515 SECOND STREET | WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

ORDER OF SERVICE & EUCHARISTIC READINGS

Ringing of the Bells

Organ Prelude *setting: Paul Manz, To Shepherds As They Watched By Night*

Welcome

Opening Hymn *John Milton / John Antes, O Worship The King, 388*

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!
2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!

Opening Sentence

Officiant The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.
- *John 1:14*

Confession & Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

All **O come let us worship.**

Invitatory

Psalm 67:1-5, *Deus misereatur*

All O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Psalm 147:13-21

Laudate Dominum

- ¹³ Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
¹⁴ For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
¹⁵ He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁶ He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
¹⁷ He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
¹⁸ He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
¹⁹ He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
²⁰ He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
²¹ He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

The Lessons

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah, *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

All **Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, ***
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, *

born of the house of your servant David.
 Through your holy prophets you promised of old
 to save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us,
 To show mercy to our forebears, *
 and to remember your holy covenant.
 This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 Free to worship you without fear, *
 holy and righteous before you,
 all the days of our life.
 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
 To give God's people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 To shine on those who dwell in darkness
 and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A Reading from the Letter to the Galatians

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. 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.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary, *Magnificat*

All My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *

**for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Gospel

John 1:1-18

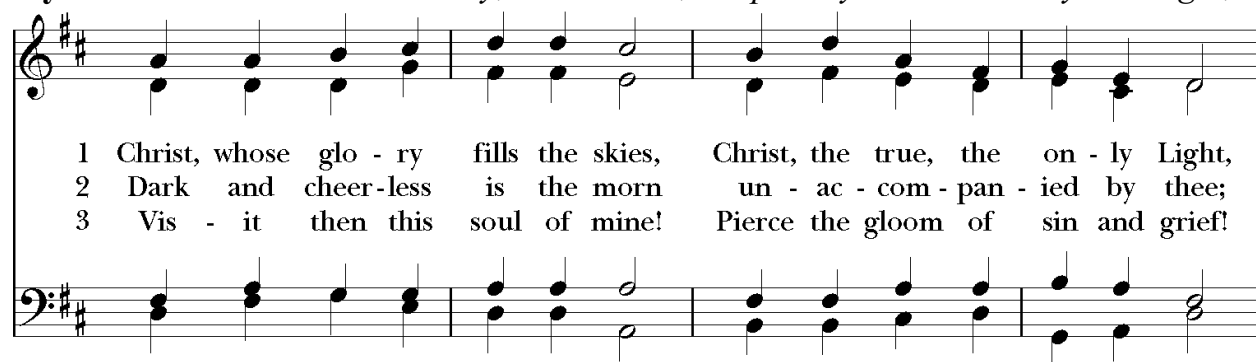
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

Hymn

words: Wesley, music: trad, adapted by William Henry Havergal, 7



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!



Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;

People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;

People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.
[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

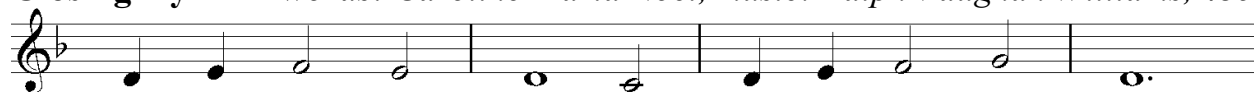
Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn words: *Caroline Maria Noel*, music: *Ralph Vaughan Williams*, 435



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 *5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 *6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Concluding Sentence

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Postlude

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, Glory To God In The Highest

Zoom Coffee Hour: all are welcome!

Grab your beverage of choice, and join us online immediately following Morning Prayer, hosted by LeAnn Herigstad.

What does it mean to you to be a child of God?



St. Luke's is committed to full inclusion for queer folk in God's Church.

Visit our website for information on how to get Involved

Sign up for weekly e-mail updates for information on opportunities to help and to learn.

Contact our Church Administrator for details, at stlukechurchwoodland@gmail.com

- **Book Study, Mondays, 5-6pm, via Zoom**
Currently reading and discussing Thich Nat Han's *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. For information, contact [Mairic](#).
- **"The Way of Love", Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom**
Gathering weekly for a short reading, reflection, and prayer. Books can be purchased online. Drop-in as your schedule allows, for information, [contact Margaret](#).
- **Queer Alliance, Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom**
St. Luke's welcomes sisters, brothers and non-binary queers in search of a faith community that supports everyone's unique path, [contact Mairic](#).
- **Inquirers' Group, Tuesdays, starts 1/12, 5:15pm, 6pm, via Zoom**
Let's build a cohort to explore and discuss the Episcopal tradition, teachings and questioning. For information, [contact Rev. Carren](#).