

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;**

we have not always recognized

your presence among us;

we have not always embraced your message of peace.

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

We confess our failure to make room

for those seeking refuge;

our participation in violent systems

that harm your innocent ones;

our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing

the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

† Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #300 - vs. 1, 3, 5 "The First Noel"

- 1 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.**

3 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. **To Refrain**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **To Refrain**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, **you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BIBLE READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

SERMON

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY ELW #301 - vs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 "Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

1 Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.

- 2 On that holy Christmas night
 through the darkness beamed a light;
 all the stars above were paling.
 all their luster slowly failing
 as the wondrous star drew nigh,
 as the wondrous star drew nigh..
- 3 Sages from the East afar,
 when they saw this wondrous star,
 went to find the king of nations
 and to offer their oblations
 to the child, the newborn king,
 to the child, the newborn king.
- 5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God, begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation,
 and all who are in need.

Responses: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God,
 trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF STARS Matthew 2:1-12

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, **great are your wonders among us and many are
 the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the**

world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION & HYMN ELW #303 - vs. 1, 3, 4, 5 "Brightest and Best of the Stars"

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
- 3 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Incarnate God, **you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The triune God, glorious Mystery,
 holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
 † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #914 TFF #59 "Jesus, the Light of the World"

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 Jesus, the Light of the world;
 "Glory to the newborn King,"
 Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
 come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
 Shine all around us by day and night,
 Jesus, the Light of the world.**

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise,
 Jesus, the Light of the world;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 Jesus, the Light of the world. ***To Refrain***

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Jesus, the Light of the world;
 Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 Jesus, the Light of the world. ***To Refrain***

4 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
 Jesus, the Light of the world;
 hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Jesus, the Light of the world. ***To Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.