



First Sunday after Christmas

December 27th, 2020

9:00 a.m.: Virtual Worship

GATHERING

Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the Collect for Purity:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude: *Three Carols for Organ*

James Biery

James Biery (b. 1956) grew up in Nebraska and earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Northwestern University. He is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, the most prestigious certification awarded by the Guild. He is currently Organist and Director of Music Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Presbyterian) in Michigan. His organ and choral music is sung and played in churches across the country. His wife, Marilyn, is also an accomplished organist, church musician, and published composer. They have one daughter, Laura, who graduated from the University of Chicago in 2012.

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Opening Hymn: *Once In Royal David's City*

Hymn 102

Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child. He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy. For he is our lifelong pattern; daily when on earth he grew; he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew; thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround; Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

“Once in Royal David's City” originated as a poem, written by the Irish poet Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848. She published it in her hymnbook, Hymns for Little Children. Alexander (1818-1895), who is credited by many as the greatest hymn-writer in the English language, is also remembered for writing “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” A year later, an English organist by the name of Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876) discovered the poem and set it to music, creating the beloved Christmas carol we know today.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895 and James Waring McCrady, b. 1938
Music: *Irby*, Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1850-1929

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 147: 13-21

- 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!

The 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.

Priest The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Mary Keenan

Music for Reflection: *What Child Is This*

Hymn 115

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? *Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.* Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain.* So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain.*

"Greensleeves" is one of the most beautiful and beloved melodies of the season. Though not exclusively a Christmas tune, its association with this season goes back to at least 1642, where it is paired with the carol, "The old year now away is fled." This poem by English layperson William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) was written to be paired with the tune.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Form II, BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those in our community _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The celebrant concludes with prayers and a collect

The Lord's Prayer

Priest and People

**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.**

The Offertory Hymn: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Hymn 99

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain.* The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.* Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

John Wesley Work, Jr. (1871-1925) was the first African-American collector of folk songs and spirituals, and also a choral director, educator, and songwriter. He transcribed and disseminated this Spiritual, which dates back to at least 1865. This version was further adapted by his son, musicologist and scholar John Wesley Work III (1901-1967).

Thomas Middleton, soloist

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967)

Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

Announcements

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Postlude: *Toccata on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"*

Alfred Fedak

This text is one of the oldest extant English carols, dated to the 16th century or earlier. The tune has been associated with these words since at least the mid-18th century. This vibrant toccata (the tempo indication is "Very fast; with fire!") was written by Alfred Fedak (b. 1953), Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany, New York.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Schedule: *Please join us online!* (in-person Sunday services have been suspended.)

- **9:00 a.m.** - *Virtual* Worship Livestream (links accessible through our website)

Mission - St. Mark's giving for 2020 supporting the organizations listed below. *Thank you to the St. Mark's community for your generosity, which has supported our outreach mission!*

- \$2000 El Buen Samaritano.
- \$2000 Community First Village.
- \$1000 to Trinity Center

Morning Prayer will continue to meet through the holidays, 8:30 a.m. M-F. Check our home page for the link: www.stmarksaustin.org.

PARISH INTERCESSION LIST

You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.

For healthcare workers and teachers: Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Carolyn, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

For those celebrating birthdays: Jean Cacali, Ann Seyler, Mary Carole Sitzes, Harper Stilson, Sarah Fortt, Samuel Parker, Daniel Hunt-Murrieta, Jenna Ramsey, Kerry Ascher, Casey Bushman, Abby Raines, Charlie Ripoll, Ann Rowe, Jack Wilson III, Tricia Dew, Stephanie Grayson.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Pattie Rose & Mike Davis, Susan & Greg Hass, Vanessa & Matt Joyce, Amy & Kevin Farley, Shirley & Lloyd Schwartz, Berit Kragas & Dave Thiessen, Julie & Kyle Rush, Laura & Chris Delfausse, Trish & Robert Dew, Jennifer Pollard & Nick Ruiz.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lectors: Pattie Rose & Mike Davis



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