



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3rd, 2021

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: *Two Carols for Piano*

Gwyneth Walker

“The Holly and the Ivy” and “I Wonder as I Wander”

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University in Rhode Island and the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical community of Randolph, Vermont.

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Opening Hymn: *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Hymn 119

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed; there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat. As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare; so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ! to thee, our heavenly King. In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down: there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Eric Panter, soloist

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) was an English writer of hymns and carols. At the age of 29 he was struck with a near fatal illness and consequently suffered months confined to his bed. During this time he became severely depressed. Yet it was during this period that many of his hymns, including “As With Gladness Men of Old,” were written. The music was adapted by William Henry Monk in 1861 from a tune written by Conrad Kocher in 1838 to be included in the first truly national English hymnbook.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

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." See, 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.

With 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. Hear 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." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They 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. Then 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. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
 he will give grace and glory;

- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Priest The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings

Music for Reflection: Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

Duet arrangement by Bruce Muskrat

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine, Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine, worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

British poet Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) excelled in works of fantasy, in poems for children, and in religious verse. These words, along with her famous poem "In the Bleak Midwinter," have become beloved lyrics for Christmastime. This setting was composed for choir by John Rutter (b. 1945). Christa's uncle Bruce Muskrat made this arrangement of Rutter's anthem for duet performance. Muskrat is the Minister of Music at Agape Baptist Church in Fort Worth. They recorded it for us over the Christmas holiday.

Christa Tumlinson and Eric Panter, duet

Bruce Muskrat, piano

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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 Carol: *We Three Kings*

Hymn 128

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. *Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!* Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain.* Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High. *Refrain.* Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain.* Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain.*

This carol was composed by John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1792-1868), the first Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and the eighth Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Its original use was for an elaborate Nativity drama he was staging. The carol tells the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection—and the melody alternates between regal, minor mode verses, in which the Wise Men announce what gifts they're presenting, and a major mode chorus joyfully proclaiming the beauty of the star guiding their way.

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.

Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

Announcements

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Postlude: *The First Noel*

arr. John Carter

John Carter (b. 1930) served for many years as Director of Music at University Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. He has published numerous sacred and secular choral and instrumental compositions, including over sixty collections of hymn arrangements for piano. His wife, The Rev. Mary Kay Beall, is also a distinguished composer and choral conductor.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Virtual Worship, 9:00 a.m.: *Please join us online* - links available on our website.

Morning Prayer meets 8:30 a.m. M-F. Check our home page for the link:

www.stmarksaustin.org.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study returns January 12th! The link will be shared on our website. Focus of Study is 1 Samuel. All are welcome!

Sunday school, January 10 & 17th, 9:45 a.m., Epiphany: Jesus revealed. Epiphany is a manifestation of the divine or a sudden insight. Join us for a discussion about how the people around Jesus experienced him as God being among us - and how we still have epiphanies today. Join the class with Mother Mary & Seminarian Barbara White., via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89874430211>.

Save the Date: Annual Parish Meeting, January 24th, during the Sunday school hour. We will thank our outgoing vestry members, welcome four new vestry members, and the 2021 approved budget will be presented.

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: Williams Allensworth, Susan Willis, Renee Trudeau, Philip Denniston, Philip Dixon, Mark Breen.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Bryan & Daniel Hunt-Murrieta, Abby & Stephen Raines, Emily & Clint Rogers.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lectors: Roger Seyler, Judy & Dave Elkins



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St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. Zac Koons, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara Gausewitz, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Mary Keenan, *Curate*

Mark Reed, *Organist/Director of Music and Bookkeeper*

Joanne Foote, *Parish Administrator*

Karon Hammond, *Head of St. Mark's Day School*

Irma Glover, *Sexton*

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