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A Congregation of Welcome, Grace, Faith and Promise

January 3, 2021

Christmas Eve @ Home  
yet together as one



**Second Sunday of  
Christmas**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're Glad You're Joining Us This Morning!

## Praying the Psalms

As we return to livestream—only for worship, we are adding a time of prayerful reflection to our Sundays together. Join us via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am for Praying the Psalms. The link can be found in the News to Know emails. Some of you may remember that several years ago Jessicah Duckworth led us with this weekly devotion in which we read and prayed a psalm each week prior to worship, Please mark your calendar and join us before worship beginning next Sunday.

Join us after worship at 10:45am for a **Sunday Morning Zoom Fellowship Meeting**. Our two interns, Cory and Emily, will be joining us each Sunday! It is a great way to get to know them better, and to catch up with your other New Joy friends! You can find the link to the coffee hour in our Friday News to Know emails. So jump on after worship and get to know our new interns!

Wednesday Bible Study will resume this coming Wednesday at 1pm. The link to the Zoom meeting will be in Tuesday's News to Know. All are welcome to join in! The upcoming Sunday scripture will be discussed.



Happy  
New Year  
2021

The Church Still Gathers

## **Prelude**

## **Words of Welcome**

### That Boy Child of Mary

*Chorus;* That Boy Child of Mary  
Was born in a stable  
A manger His cradle in Bethlehem

What shall we call Him  
Child of the manger  
What name is given in Bethlehem. *Chorus*

His Name is Jesus  
God ever with us  
God given for us in Bethlehem. *Chorus*

One with the Father  
He is our Savior  
Heaven sent Helper in Bethlehem. *Chorus*

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

## **Hymn of Praise**

### God Rest Ye Merry Gentle Ones

God rest ye merry gentle ones  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray

Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem in Jewry  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn. *Chorus*

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name. *Chorus*

## **Prayer of the Day**

Reader: 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.

C: Amen.

## **First Reading**

## **Sirach 24:1-12**

Wisdom will praise herself, and she will boast in the midst of her people. <sup>2</sup>In the assembly of the Most High, she will open her mouth, and in the presence of his heavenly forces, she will boast: <sup>3</sup>“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and I covered the earth like a mist. <sup>4</sup>I lived in the heights, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. <sup>5</sup>I alone encircled the vault of heaven and walked in the depths of abysses. <sup>6</sup>In the waves of the sea and in every land, and among every people and nation, I led the way. <sup>7</sup>I sought a resting place among all of these. In whose allotted territory should I make my home?

<sup>8</sup>“Then the creator of all things gave me a command; the one who created me pitched my tent and said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob, and let Israel receive your inheritance.’ <sup>9</sup>Before the ages, from the beginning, he created me, and till eternity I will never fail. <sup>10</sup>I ministered before him in the holy tent, and so I was established in Zion. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, he made the dearly loved city my resting place and established my authority in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup>I took root in a glorified people; among the people the Lord chose for his inheritance.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

### Away in the Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

## **Gospel**

**John 1:1-18**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

<sup>4</sup> through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

<sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world

<sup>10</sup> The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.

<sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.

<sup>12</sup> But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,

<sup>13</sup> born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

<sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

<sup>17</sup> as the Law was given through Moses,  
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God.

God the only Son,  
who is at the Father's side,  
has made God known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

### **Away in the Manger**

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and move me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

# Children's Message

## Sermon

### There Was the Word

Before there was earth or water or sky  
Before there was how or where or why  
Before there was woman  
Before there was man  
Before there was "No"  
And before there was "Oh, yes I can"—  
There was the Word.

Then came creation  
Then came the fall  
Then came the flood  
And then came the call  
Then came the promise  
Then came the land  
Then came captivity  
And then came the wilderness band—  
And there was the Word.

*Refrain:* And the Word became flesh  
And the Word became bone  
And the Word became one of our own.

Some called him savior  
Some called him king  
Some called the one who would change ev'rything  
Some called him truth  
Some called him grace  
Some called him the light  
To enlighten the whole human race—  
And there was the Word. *Refrain*

Wherever falsehood is turned into right  
Wherever blindness is turned into sight  
Wherever death is turned into birth

Wherever warfare is turned into peace on this earth—  
There is the Word. *Refrain*

*The Assisting Minister leads this portion of the service, where we proclaim our faith, renew our shared mission, lift our prayers to God, and extend God's peace with one another.*

## **Prayer**

*The Assisting Minister leads the congregation in the Prayers of the Church, giving thanks to God, and asking God's blessings for the church, the world, and all those in need. After each prayer petition, the congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."*

## **Sharing God's Peace**

*We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you" now, in the middle of our worship service. We wish for each other that we'd truly experience God's presence and peace. This helps prepare us for the gift of Holy Communion. Our worship service will continue with the Offering*

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

### Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

## **Announcements**

### **WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL**

## **Words of Institution**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Born in humility,  
he came to rule as the Prince of Peace.



Helpless as an infant,  
he showed the power of your love.  
Poor in things of the world,  
he shared the wealth of your grace.  
Rejected by many,  
he welcomed all who sought him.  
In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from the power of sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

We praise you that, on the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying  
“Take and eat, this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again after he took the cup, blessed it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
“Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

We celebrate our Lord’s birth this night,  
joining angels and shepherds in singing his praise.  
Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes again  
to join heaven and earth in a new creation  
remade according to your glorious intent.

Blessing, praise, and thanks be to you,  
holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Holy spirit,  
in your church, without end.  
**Amen.**

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.**

## **Lord's Supper**

*All are welcome to the table, where Jesus is host and offers himself to all who desire to receive. This is truly our Lord's table. We believe that Jesus shows up in this meal - in the invitation, in the bread and cup, and in the precious words that his body and blood are given and shed "for you." This meal is indeed given for you for the forgiveness of sins and as a promise of our Lord's presence with you.*

*Instructions on sharing communion at home:*

*These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God, and for that we say  
Thanks be to God!*

### Lamb of God

Your only Son no sin to hide  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God

*Chorus:* Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God  
I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died  
The humble King they named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Chorus*

I was so lost I should have died  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God. *Chorus*

### He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

*(light, peace joy)*

## **Prayer After Communion**

### **WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S JOY**

### **Blessing**

P: Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

### **Sending Song**

#### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;

ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

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## **New Joy Lutheran Church: A Spirited Community**

**New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.**

### **Extend Radical Welcome**

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that welcomes, values, accepts, and nurtures all people wherever they are in their relationship with God.

### **Share Generous Grace**

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that freely proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

### **Nurture Transforming Faith**

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

### **Live God's Promise**

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.



### **About New Joy Lutheran Church**

New Joy Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a community of faith moved by God's Spirit. We come to New Joy from different places, with different life and faith experiences. What draws us together is the center – our Lord Jesus Christ – who welcomes us into a common life and transforming faith, and sends us out to share generous grace and boldly live God's promise.

