

The First Sunday of Christmas

10:00

December 27, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church Camas,
Washington

Ministers: the entire congregation

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

Pam Ensley, Youth Minister

Karen Rezabek, Praise Team

Patricia Hagensen, Administrative Assistant

Church office 834-4201;

email info@zionluthcamas.org

Hours: Mon 8-12:00, Tues-Fri 8-5:00

“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God’s saving grace for all.”

INTRODUCTION

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon’s song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God’s salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Prelude

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Welcome – Announcements

Gathering Carol

“Cold December Flies Away”

Number 299

- 1 Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor. April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders at the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears the flow'r. On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r. On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.
- 2 In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen. All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping. But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son below'd of heaven.

- 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens. In the lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance. And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth; and its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it spreads in its heav'nly brightness sweet perfume delightful.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P: God, wonderful counselor, we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. **Amen.**
- P: God’s lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God’s mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always. **Amen.**

“Blessings”

Prayer of the Day

- P: 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.**
Let us pray. Almighty God, shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

“The Angel Gabriel Came Down”

First Reading – Patti Gardner

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. ¹¹For 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. ^{2:1}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. ²The 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. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

v. 1, 3 Number 289

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king.
Refrain
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king.
Refrain

Psalm Reading – Marilyn Anderson

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created, ⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; ⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; ⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things

and flying birds; ¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; ¹²young men and maidens, old and young together. Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. ¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Second Reading – Karen Gates

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Carol

"Once in Royal David's City"

Number 269

- 1 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.
- 2 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 and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

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

Gospel Reading – Ursula Richards

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn

male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Message

Bishop Richard Jaech

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

v. 1,2 Number 272

1 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.

2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Nicene Creed – Jen Ludwig

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 worshipped 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.

"Jesus Messiah"

The Prayers

P: Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence

God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness, especially those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving. Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. ***Amen.***

Sharing the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: ***And also with you.***

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.

Sending Hymn

"The First Noel"

v. 1-4 Number 300

1. The first Noel the angels 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.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
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. *Refrain*
4. This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Our thanks to this morning's musicians:

Brooke Danielson, Doug Danielson, Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Rick Schaal, Judy Swanson, Brandon Zarzana

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"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Friesach

"Cold December Flies Away" Text: Catalanian carol, tr. Howard Hawhee; @1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGLEGAT, Catalanian carol

"Blessings" Text: Laura Story; CCLI # 5897818 2011 Laura Stories, New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould; Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE; Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman and John Wickham; Arr. @1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

"Mary Did You Know?" Text: Buddy Greene, Mark Lowry
CCLI SONG #839225; @1991, 1993 Rufus Music (Admin. by Capitol
CMG Publishing); @Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Text: French carol, trans. H.F. Hemy;
Music: GLORIA; French carol, arr. Edward S. Barnes

"Once In Royal David's City" Text: Cecil Francis Alexander;
Music: Henry J. Gauntlett

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Text: German carol; tr. Theodore Baker
sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth st.3; John C. Mattes, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS; Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln;
arr. Michael Praetorius

"Ó Come, O Come Emmanuel" additional lyrics by Matt Maher
Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln; sts. 2,6,7 @1997
Augsburg Fortress; Music: French processional

"Jesus Messiah" Chris Tomin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves;
CCLI #5183443; @2008 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG
Publishing); @2008 Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); @2008 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG
Publishing);@ 2008 Wondrously Made Songs (Admin. by Music Services,
Inc.)

"The First Noel" Text: English traditional; Music: English traditional; arr.
John Stainer