



— THE —
TABLE

Worship Gathering
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2017

Gathering as the Body

Announcements / Call to Worship / Silence

Opening Prayers

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

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

**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.**

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels;

*Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest; *(to refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing; *(to refrain)*

Blessing of the Children

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

[sing together]:

**Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Scripture Reading *61:10 - 62:3*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[sing together]:

**Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Responsive Psalm Reading *Psalm 148*

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

**Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

**Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
**and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

**lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,**

you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

**wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**

kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

**young men and women,
old men and children.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.**

[sing together]:

**Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Scripture Reading *Galatians 4:4-7*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[sing together]:

**Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:22-40*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Prayers of the People

Lord Jesus, into the darkness of _____, may we behold your beautiful light. Help us to seek and find you right there.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as God's children. Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Welcoming One Another in Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Communing at the Table

Prayers Around the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est! Bless-ed is he who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high -
 est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

...Because you are one with us, O Christ,
 make us one with you as we pray the prayer you taught us:

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And
 hal - low - ed be thy name, thy king - dom for - give us our tres - pas - ses, as we for -
 come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in give those who tres - pass a - gainst
 heav'n. And lead us not in to temp - ta - tion us.

but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For thine is the king - dom, and the

pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and

ev - er. A - men.

...Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All are welcome to come to the Lord's table. Come with open hands to receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and feed on Christ's presence, with thanksgiving.

If you are not a baptized Christian, come with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing. (And let us know if you're interested in being baptized.)

Song: What Child Is This

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?
 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 donkeys are feeding?
 Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
 the cross he bore for me, for you.
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondring love
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King and Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in

Song: Angels We Have Heard On High

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?
(refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
(refrain)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sentness

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Sending & Blessing

Depart now in peace, for your eyes have seen the salvation
which God has prepared for all people.
Grow in strength and wisdom
and bring forth a harvest of righteousness and praise.

And may God smile upon you and make you strong and wise;
May Christ Jesus share his inheritance with you freely;
And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the presence of God's
Messiah.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

