**Worship Plan for Sunday, December 30, 2018 – Lessons and Carols**

**PRELUDE** *Unto Us a Boy is Born* - Wilbur Held

**WELCOME**

The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.”

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed; God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world.

**In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love.**

**We come to adore Jesus who Savior, Christ, and Lord!**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Hark, the herald angels sing (ELW 270)*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

You Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our fear of stepping out from our comfort zones.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed,

“Do not fear, For I bring you good news of great joy.

Today is born a Savior, who Christ, the Lord.”

In + Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, your sins are forgiven.

May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens.

Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen!**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Angels we have heard on high (ELW 289)*

**GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(The Psalm is read responsively)*

**THE PSALM** Psalm 8

O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens**

**out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies,**

**to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens,

the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars

you have set in their courses,

**what are mere mortals**

**that you should be mindful of them,**

**human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor, you crown them.

**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**

**you have put all things under their feet;**

all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**

**and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O Lord our Lord,

**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Come Run Ye Shepherds* – Hal Hopson

**lesson** Isaiah 12:2-6

For unto you is born a Savior

**Who is Christ, the Lord!**

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

3With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE** *O Come All Ye Faithful (ELW 283 – chorus only)*

**LESSON** Matthew 1:18-21

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL** *Let all together praise our God (ELW 287 vs 1, 3, 6)*

**lesson** Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

For unto you is born a Savior

**Who is Christ, the Lord!**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

11 For 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE** *O Come All Ye Faithful (ELW 283 – chorus only)*

**LESSON** John 1:19-23, 29-34

19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

29The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL** *Let our gladness have no end (ELW 291)*

**lesson** Isaiah 6:1-8

For unto you is born a Savior

**Who is Christ, the Lord!**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 5And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” 8Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE** *O Come All Ye Faithful (ELW 283 – chorus only)*

**LESSON** Luke 1:26-35

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL** *Infant holy, infant lowly (ELW 276)*

**NICENE CREED**

**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 worshiped 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.**

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending,   
the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

God of wisdom, open our ears to hear you 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, metal illness, or sickness (*especially*).

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 (*especially*). 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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One,   
the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In 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 supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“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.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in hi death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
and teach us to pray..**.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come. Be filled with the light and life of Jesus, our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of wonder,

in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

As you have come among us now, send us out in joy,

hastening to share the good news of your love.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**Blessing**The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Go tell it on the mountain (ELW 290)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** *In Thee is Gladness* - J. S. Bach