

Church of the Ascension

January 3, 2020

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Diane Lemcio, Music Director
2330 Viewmont Way W
Seattle, WA 98199
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Second Sunday After Christmas

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Follow Christ + Develop and Deepen Faith + Love and Serve

If you wish to make online donations to the congregation, you may do so here: [Giving Link](#)

Prelude

Sing We Now of Christmas - arr. Robert Lau

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Welcome to Ascension!

Please stand when the bell is rung, signaling the beginning of worship.

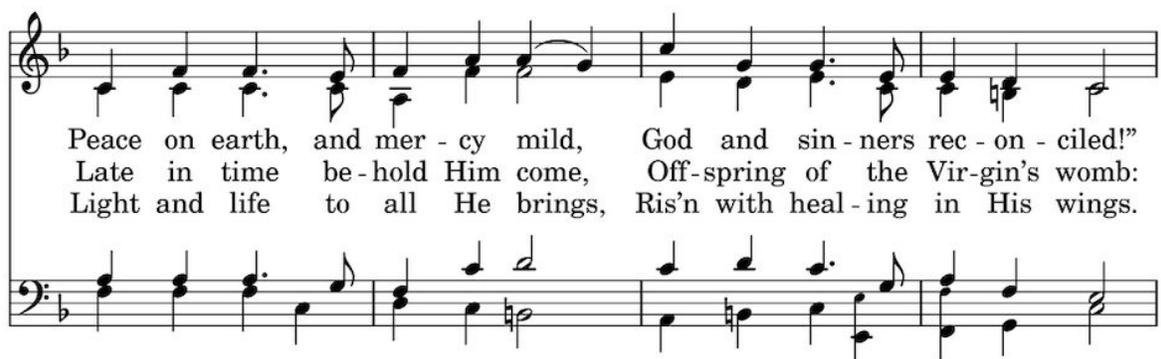
Opening Acclamation

Presider *Blessed be God: holy, glorious and undivided Trinity*
People *And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.*

Opening Hymn Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, vv. 1, 3



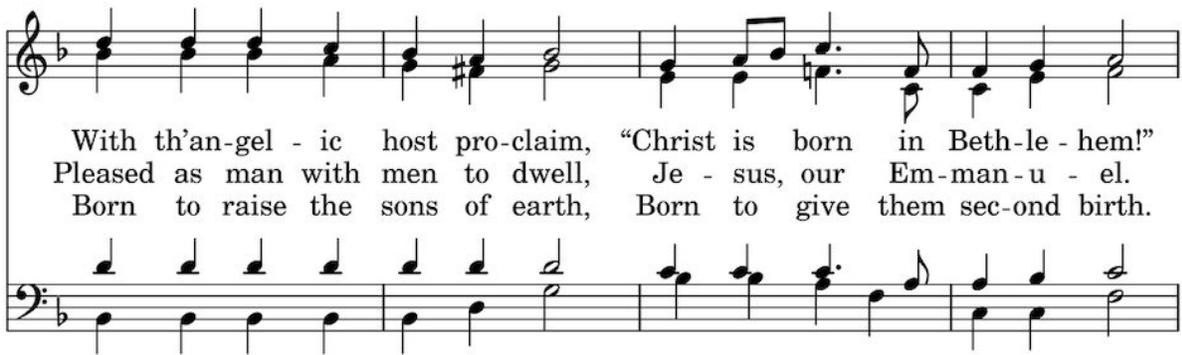
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eaous-ness!



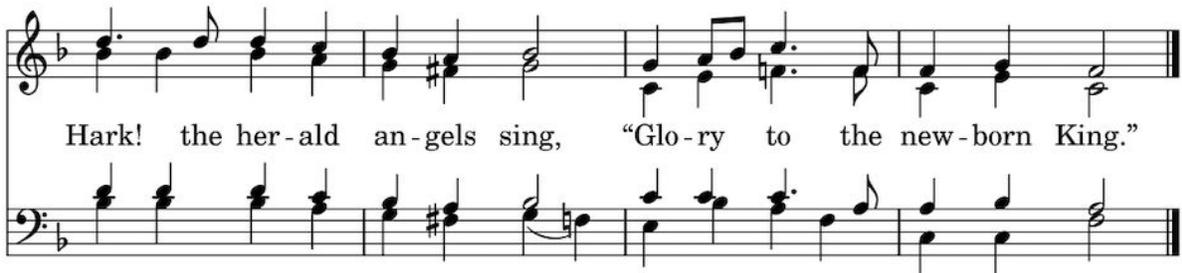
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.*

The Liturgy of the Word

All are seated for the reading.

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,
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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 84

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.

**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.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

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.

**They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

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.

**For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

**O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be forever. Amen.**

All stand for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

on the tune Puer Nobis - Thomas Pavlechko

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All are seated for the preaching,

Sermon

Eugene Lemcio, Lay Preacher,
Emeritus New Testament Professor

Silence and stillness follow.

The Nicene Creed *Said in unison*

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

Prayers of the People

Let us light our hearts in faith

To the One who hears all prayers

And holds close all those in need.

For the church throughout the world, that we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name; In Your great love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may resist the corruption of sin and serve the common good; In Your great love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

For this home, the Earth, that we and all people may be good stewards of its resources and share of its abundance; In Your love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

For the impoverished and the stranger, that they may receive a place of refuge and hope, and that the church may offer the hospitality that Christ calls us to and share our resources: In Your great love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life; In Your great love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that they may receive good things, and that we remain in relationship, seeking the way of love: In Your great love, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Open intercessions and thanksgiving are offered.

Healing for: Barb, Tom, Dave, Dick, Nan, Penny, Kim's father (Don), Amy's cousin (Sam), Gene's sister (Lois), Dave's father (Bob), the response of the soul of Mary Kay's friend (Paula)

Thanksgiving for the birth of Latimer's grandchild, Eloise: Meredith and Drew's new child,

Birthdays :Mary Ann Ekman, Carol-Jean Gaffney, Elizabeth Servey, Mark Maleng, Carol Goodall

For the celebrations of those with birthdays, let us pray:

Watch over thy child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, you shape our dreams. As we put our trust in you may your hopes and desires be ours, and we your expectant people. **Amen.**

The Peace

And also with you.

Please greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

Offering Sentence

Offertory

Once in Royal David's City

Bee, Edie and Tess Peck

Sung Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God, above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

People **We are the gathered body of Christ walking in this world in Love.
We are the miracle of Love made Flesh.**

The Episcopal Blessing

Our help is in the name of the Lord:

The maker of heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord;

From this time forth for evermore.

The blessing of mercy and grace of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude **Sing We Now of Christmas - arr. Robert Lau**

Coffee Hour follows this Prayer Service on Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839469505>



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We **acknowledge** that the land upon which we are gathering is the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People.

