

*Worship Booklet for Sheltering-in-Place*  
=== *Morning Prayer* ===  
*The Second Sunday after Christmas: January 3, 2021*  
*The Season of Christmas*  
**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Introduction** – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

**Opening Hymn** – Hymnal #117, “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning,” v. 1 & 2

Verse 1:

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Verse 2:

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Officiant Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.  
*Revelation 21:3*

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All** *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.*

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Officiant Lord, open our lips.  
**Response** *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

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

Officiant Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

**Jubilate** *Psalm 100 Jubilate Deo*

*A Reader leads the recitation*

**Reader and People together**

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

*For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

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

**Psalm**    *Psalm 84    Quam dilecta!*

*A Reader leads the recitation*

***Reader and People together***

*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!*

**The Old Testament – Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Reader:*

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,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
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:* The Word of the Lord.

*Response* ***Thanks be to God.***

## The Epistle – Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

*Reader:*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**Response** *Thanks be to God.*

### \*Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia

*After a brief introduction, sing two times through*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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## The Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Response** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child;

and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Officiant    The Gospel of our Savior.

*Response    Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**A Reflection** – Rev. Lois

**11    The Third Song of Isaiah**    *Surge, illuminare*    *Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

*A Reader leads the recitation*

***Reader and People together***

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,\*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land:\*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise,\*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light,\*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open;\*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord,\*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land,\*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation,\*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day;\*  
By night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light,\*  
and your God will be your glory.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:\*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

**The Apostles' Creed**

*A Reader leads the recitation*

***Reader and People together***

*We believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Officiant     The Lord be with you.  
**Response**    *And also with you.*  
Officiant     Let us pray.

**All**           *Our Father in heaven,  
                  hallowed be your Name,  
                  your kingdom come,  
                  your will be done,  
                  on earth as in heaven.*  
  
*Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.*

Officiant     Let us now pray:

**Suffrage A**

*A Reader leads each versicle (V.) and the People respond (R.) :*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**R. And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**R. Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **The Doxology**

*All            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. Amen.*

*Reader:*        God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these financial gifts we have made to Christ the Lord Church and our community into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. *Amen.*

*Add your prayers for yourself and the world, and thanks for God's blessings, out loud or in the chat.*

## **The Collect of the Day**    *From Planning for Rites and Rituals 2020-2021*

Officiant      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.*

### **A Collect for the Renewal of Life**

*Reader:*        O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for Social Justice**

*Reader:*        Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Collect for Mission**

*Reader:*        Lord God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People together*

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom** [*KRIS-us-tum*]

*Reader:* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*Response* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Closing Hymn** – Hymnal #128, “We Three Kings,” v. 1 through 5 (all verses)

#### Verse 1:

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star. (*to Refrain*)

#### Refrain:

*O—star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

#### Verse 2:

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. (*to Refrain*)

#### Verse 3:

Frankincense to offer have I:  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God Most High. (*to Refrain*)

#### Verse 4:

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*to Refrain*)

#### Verse 5:

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heaven sings alleluia;  
alleluia the earth replies. (*to Refrain*)

*Officiant* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*



Don't forget to join us for virtual coffee hour after the service through Zoom! Check your email from Sandy for details.

Stewardship update: Thanks to all of you who have returned your completed pledge and time and talent forms. If you have not already done so, please return your completed forms to the Church office. God bless all of us as we bring the light and love of Christ into the world.

From the Church Office: Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to collect non-perishable items for the Food Bank this year. So we encourage everyone to please make a money donation to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. You may donate through our online giving page by going to <https://christthelord.gvtls.com> and clicking on the Food Bank picture.

