

Welcome and Announcements: January 3, 2021

Prelude: **Dedication* – Frederick Archer

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GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Opening Prayer

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ from the darkness of death. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you. Amen.

Creation: The Seventh Day - Genesis 2:1-4

Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail. By the seventh day God had finished this work. On the seventh day God rested from all this work. God blessed the seventh day. God made it a Holy Day because on that day God rested from work, all the creating God had done. This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

Opening Hymn: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)
3. Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High. (*Refrain*)
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*Refrain*)
5. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

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GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Jeremiah 31:7-14

Isaiah 60

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Jeremiah 31

⁷For 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."
⁸See, 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.
9 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.
10 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."
11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
12 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.
13 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.
14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Sermon: Rest and Renewal

Pastor Kerra English

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...

...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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion Meditation: During the music, receive the gifts of bread and wine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Meditation: *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness*

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Prayer after Communion

Response: *Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, As in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Public Domain. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.
2. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.
3. O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.

4. To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

What Star is This, with Beams So Bright as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Charles Coffin, 1736. Music: Trier, ms., 15th century, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

A Compline (Evening) Blessing

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Postlude: **Ceremonial March* – Muriel Dillon

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