



**Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale
January 2, 2022 ~ Second Sunday after Christmas**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP VISION STATEMENT

We joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. We respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope, and love. With God's guidance, we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. Through service, we flourish. Amen!

OPENING HYMN Angel's We Have Heard on High, #155

Angels We Have Heard On High

Words: Traditional French Carol; tr. Crown of Jesus, 1862, alt.

Music: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1937); harm. Austin C. Lovelace (1964, alt.); desc. Richard E. Gerig (1956)

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*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 heavenly song?*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee
Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid,
Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Almighty and merciful God, I know that when I offend others, I offend You. I know that the shadow of doubt and hate often cloud my soul, hiding Your Light from my unseeing eyes. I have said unpleasant and hurtful things to my brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to my expectations. Grant that I might find that spark of love that ever burns within, the love that you have shown to me even when I failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation. Guide me into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Children of God, hear the "Good News" God hears the sorrows that sit on our hearts and know that through Christ, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!!! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father, #35

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.

MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner (1868)

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*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*

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament Lesson: Sirach 24:1-12

Gospel Lesson: John 1:10-18

SERMON *Walking with wisdom, Pastor Dave*

HYMN Angels, from the Realms of Glory, #149

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Words: James Montgomery (1816)

Music: Henry T. Smart (1867)

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*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen the natal star:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
here among us shall appear:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

MEDITATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Singing), #307

WORDS: Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

MUSIC: Albert Hay Malotte, 1935; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1984

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Our Father, which 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, Amen.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(This is spiritually only, if in the Sanctuary: please stay in your places and use the elements in your Communion Boxes.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Take and eat.

In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, we thank You and praise You for calling us to Your table. Through this Holy Communion, we have been strengthened and prepared to enter the world in hope and faith for what comes next. You have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be Your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil as we proclaim Your Good News in all we say and do in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

We joyfully offer ourselves in God's work using our time, talent, and treasure.

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, #46

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Lord, We thank you and praise you for leading us into this life of giving. One, we come to You with our offerings, for we know in our souls that only You have the wisdom to guide us in how to best use them. Amen!

WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY

Prayers of the People:

You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.

Sharing our joys and concerns

Pastor: God is with you

All: And also, with you

Pastor: Let us pray

Pastoral Prayer

SUNG RESPONSE Hear Our Prayer, O Lord, #306

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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Hear our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, #150

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley (1739, alt.)

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn (1840); arr. William H. Cummings (1856); desc. Paul Liljestränd

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*Hark! the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,*

*mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.*

*Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.

MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner (1868)

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*O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*

POSTLUDE

Ukuthula (Zulu hymn)

Traditional South African Freedom Song

arr. André van der Merwe

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Sirach 24:1-12 (NRSV)

The Praise of Wisdom

24 Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. 2 In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

3 "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist.

4 I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. 5 Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. 6 Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. 7 Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? 8 "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' 9 Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. 10 In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. 11 Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. 12 I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

John 1:10-18 (NRSV)

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.