



First Reformed Church, Schenectady
Those worshipping in person must wear masks, social distance, and not sing.

Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2021

Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden
Liturgist: Daniel Carlson
Church Musician: Max Caplan
Special Music: Rachel Rose

PRELUDE *Italian Concerto* Johann Sebastian Bach
I. Allegro

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* #46

**On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.**

Refrain:

Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

**His the doom, ours the mirth; When He came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw His birth; Ox and ass beside Him
From the cold would hide Him. Refrain**

**God's bright star, o'er His head, Wise Men three to Him led;
Kneel they low by His bed, Lay their gifts before Him,
Praise Him and adore Him. Refrain**

**On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us;
Peace and love He gave us. Refrain**

***OUR NEED FOR GOD** (*unison*)

**O God, you have come to us in Christ,
and yet we often live as if it made no difference.
We know you have come in love to bring light to all people,
and yet we limit our love with safe boundaries,
building walls rather than bridges,
denying we are connected to all human beings and to Creation.
Forgive us, God, and give us new hearts to serve you.
Make yourself known to us as we live today.
We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ,
in whom you most fully revealed yourself. Amen.**

***GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

**To God Creator, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one,
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful
praise.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*A New Zealand Prayer Book*)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (*spoken and signed*)

**The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Simple Gifts

arr Aaron Copeland

'Tis the gift to be simple
'Tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when you find yourself in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed

To turn, turn will be our delight
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be simple
'Tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when you find yourself in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Another Road

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Holy Boy

John Ireland

Lowly, laid in a manger,
With oxen brooding nigh,
The Heavenly Babe is lying
His Maiden Mother by.
Lo! The wayfaring sages,
Who journeyed far through the wild,
Now worship, silent, adoring,
The Boy, The Heavenly Child!

Leave your work and your playtime,
And kneel in homage and prayer,
The Prince of Love is smiling
Asleep in His cradle there!

Bend your heart to the wonder,
The Birth, the Mystery mild,
And worship, silent, adoring,
The Boy, The Heavenly Child!

Dim the light of the lantern,
And bare the mean abode,
Yet gold and myrrh and incense
Proclaim the Son of God.
Lowly, laid in a manger
By Virgin undefiled,
Come worship, silent, adoring,
The Boy, The Heavenly Child!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF ELEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

*CLOSING HYMN *Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)* #400

**When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
And when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God; we belong to God.**

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
We belong to God; we belong to God.**

**Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
When sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
We belong to God; we belong to God.**

**Across this wide world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind,
But when we help them, or when we feed them,
We belong to God; we belong to God.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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Prayers of the People

We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember our church members who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

James Caufield, Priscilla Brightly
Barbara Stroebel, Charlotte King
Albert Lawrence, Maude Dunlap

Church Offerings

As we worship virtually, we continue to welcome your offerings to support the ministry of First Reformed Church! All types of church offerings may be made online at 1streformed.com, dropped off during office hours or mailed. Thank you!

