First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"   arr. David Lasky
                "What Child Is This"   arr. Ruth Schram

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign that Christ has come and Christ will come again. As the light pushes back darkness let us walk with, learn from, and worship Jesus Christ.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Praise the Lord from the heavens and the heights above.
All: **Praise the Lord all his angels and his heavenly hosts.**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord both sun and moon and all the shining stars.
All: **Praise the Lord from the earth.**

Liturgist: Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that blow,
               mountains and hills, trees and bushes, wild animals that roam,
               kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all rulers,
               young men and maidens, old men and children –
All: **Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

Liturgist: For he has raised up for his people a Savior.
All: **Praise the Lord.**   *Psalm 148 adapted*

* **All Singing:**   **92**   **"Joy to the World"**

* GOD'S GREETING
* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* All Singing: 610 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
Singing twice

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing
before they leave for "God Loves Me" and "Children in Worship."

CHILDREN'S BLESSING
Children: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
All: For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.   *Isaiah 61:10-11*

Liturgist: In that confidence we confess our sin and brokenness.

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
All: And because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Liturgist: So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.   *Galatians 4:4-7 adapted*

All Singing: 78   "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Soloist singing verses 1 and 2, all joining for verses 4 and 5

Liturgist: I John 4:7-12

Proclamation
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
* All Singing: 95   "What Child Is This"

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: In the Second Half

* All Singing: "Joy Has Dawned" *(see insert)*

Dedication
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING
1. General Fund
2. Bethshan Association

OFFERTORY "I Wonder as I Wander"   John Jacob Niles

* **All Singing:**   **81**   **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**
                Singing verse 5

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending
* BENEDICTION

* **All Singing:**   **97**   **"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"**
                Soloist singing verse 1, all joining on verse 2

Postlude: "Yonder Star"   by Andrea Dow
                "The Three Kings"   arr. Gordon Young

Worship Leaders

Organ / Piano / Flute:	Lynn Hollender	Acolyte:	Vera Hulford
Soloist:	Aron Reppmann	Liturgist:	Annelise Latham
Cello:	Adeline Larsen	Prayer:	Nate Pettinga
Guitar:	Clay Carlson		
Postlude Pianist:	Lydia Carlson		
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

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Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music by
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Joyous! (♩ = 128)

F Gm⁷/F F Csus C Dm⁷ Gm⁷ F/C C C⁷ F Gm⁷/F F Csus C

1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom-ised from cre - a - tion: God's sal - va - tion now un-furled,
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels, as the might-y Prince of Life
3. Shep-herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry; Gifts of men from dis - tant lands
4. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n, giv - en as a ran-som; Re - con - cil - ing God and man—

Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Csus C F F/A B♭ F/A Gm⁷ Csus C Dm⁷ Gm⁷ F/A

hope for ev - ery na - tion. Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of
shel - ters in a sta - ble. Hands that set each star in__ place, shaped the earth in
pro - phes-y a sto - ry. Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is
Christ our might-y Champ - ion! What a Sav-iour, what a__Friend, what a glo - rious

F/C C C⁷ F Gm⁷ F Csus C Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Csus C F

glo - ry, but a hum-ble gift of love:___ Je - sus, born of Ma - ry.
dark - ness, cling now to a moth-er's breast,___ vul - n'ra-ble and help - less.
with us; Myrrh, His death will make a way and by His blood He'll win us.
mys - t'ry: Once a babe in Beth - le - hem,___ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

last time fine

Gm⁷ F/A B♭ Dm Csus C F

Joy Has Dawned (Hymnal: Key of F)