



PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

SONG

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus

Please sing along with the lyrics on the screen

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the celebrations begin

Like eager children waiting for dawn, tearing at the wrapping to get to the gift, waking sleeping parents with shouts of joy, let our celebrations begin!

May this Christmas morning find us able to say “Alleluia” even in the midst of pain and anxiety, because Jesus is our hope.

Jesus Christ, come to us, fill our hearts with joy in knowing this deeper truth that life contains, that because You come, all will be well.

Let us witness not to successful lives, not to perfect health, faultless families, highly achieving work, or new possessions, but to the quiet inner knowing of You.

And as we gather this joyful morning, let our Alleluias rise from willing lips, from lives opened to Your gift, and from hearts filled with Your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, and Amen!

~ written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community website. <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God of Love,

There is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 1:1-12 (The Message)

Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words!

After he finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God, far higher than any angel in rank and rule. Did God ever say to an angel, "You're my Son; today I celebrate you" or "I'm his Father, he's my Son"? When he presents his honored Son to the world, he says, "All angels must worship him."

Regarding angels he says, "The messengers are winds, the servants are tongues of fire." But he says to the Son, "You're

God, and on the throne for good; your rule makes everything right. You love it when things are right; you hate it when things are wrong. That is why God, your God, poured fragrant oil on your head, Marking you out as king, far above your dear companions.”

And again to the Son, “You, Master, started it all, laid earth’s foundations, then crafted the stars in the sky. Earth and sky will wear out, but not you; they become threadbare like an old coat; You’ll fold them up like a worn-out cloak, and lay them away on the shelf. But you’ll stay the same, year after year; you’ll never fade, you’ll never wear out.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The First Noel

#300

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-14 (The Message)

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #276
 **Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #276
**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
 praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the child was born for you!
 Christ the child was born for you!**

SERMON *“The Gift That Keeps on Giving”*

HYMN *Joy to the World* #267
**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I 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 into hell.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace, hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the
earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our
hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and
blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lord Jesus, we are thankful for this opportunity to celebrate your birth. Yet we must confess that much of the newness has worn off. The angels' message has grown old in our hearts, and your birth has become more of a sentimental tradition for us to observe rather than the life-changing reality in which you invite us to participate.

Lord, we are hurting because of it. Our hearts feel empty and alone. Our spirits remain restless and unsatisfied. Our souls are weighed down by nagging guilt and haunting fears. Lord, we need the assurance of your love. We need to know your forgiveness. Savior, we need to experience your peace, power and joy.

God has heard our confession and answers with these words: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Believe and receive the good news of Christ's full and forever forgiveness—flowing to you from the manger, the cross and the empty tomb. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** *Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** *Refrain*

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Okay, we will! Thanks be to God.

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Please Pray For...

**Those who are grieving losses of any sort, including the friends and family of Leon Carpenter

**Those recovering from surgeries, and those who are ill or hospitalized including Ken (Brother of Cathy Dahl); Ingrid James; Bob Tesch; Rose Bintliff (Friend of the Kaisers); Keith Buchholz (Brother-in-Law of Judy Stanley); Ruth Henriksen (Mother of Rebecca Kaiser); Ashley; LeAnn (Friend of Mikkey T.); Seth and Brenda (Friends of the Baschnagels); Mike; Abbot (Great-Grandson of Lane); Dorothy Wall (Friend of Toni Ramsey); Kirt Burt (Friend of the Kaisers)

**Those with on-going concerns, including Chuck Baschnagel (Father of Mike); Kimber Kaiser; David Vining; Peg Tesch; Glenyce (Cousin of Carla Oerter); Reece Ullerich (Friend of Linda Boll); Gary McKean (Nephew of Lane Pine); Marie Kennedy; Iris Brimer; Clay Walberg; Rod Dikoff (Cousin of Roger); Suzan Heidelberger; Chelle Schefcik; Barbara (Aunt of Carmen Lakner); David Henriksen (Brother of Rebecca Kaiser)

**For our military members and their families

**For our leaders at all levels

**For our siblings in Christ, our friends and enemies, both near and far

**For those who are homeless and those whose homes do not provide warmth and safety

**For those who the holiday season is an especially hard time and for those who walk with them



Sunday, Dec 25th

9:30am Worship in building and live online on Facebook and YouTube
No Sunday Night Live

Monday, Dec 26th

Church Office Closed for Christmas

Wednesday, Dec 28th-Jan 2nd

Pastor Deb on vacation

Sunday, Jan 1st

9:30am Worship in building and live online on Facebook and YouTube
Fellowship following worship
No Sunday Night Live

Monday, Jan 2nd

Church office closed for New Years

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of our Lord

Worship at 9:30 am

We gather to celebrate the baptism of Jesus and remember our own baptisms. We will also celebrate Holy Communion this Sunday.

***Pastor Deb will be offering a 1st Communion Class at 3:30 pm this Sunday for children (and parents) before they celebrate their First Communion Milestone and/or for those who would like to learn more about communion. Please register with Josie, Administrative Assistant, ahead of time so we can make sure to have enough supplies ready. Call 605-255-4662 or email at osl@mt-rushmore.net.*

