



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas Day

REFLECTION

Dear Baby Jesus how tiny thou art, I'll make a place for thee in my heart. And when the stars in the heavens I see, ever and always I think of thee. ~ Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt (1954)

PRELUDE

"Above the Stars"

K. Lee Scott

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

Praise God, sun and moon!

God's name alone is exalted;

God is above the earth and heaven.

Young and old together, all creatures great and small,

Let us praise God's holy name, now and evermore!

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. **Amen.**

CAROL SING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

God of our lives and the times in which we live, we come before you on this last Sunday of the year, marvelling that another year has passed. For some of us, time has slipped by and we wonder where another year went. For others, the pressures of the pandemic have been intense; the sorrows, heavy; the conflicts, challenging. O God, you have seen us through this peculiar year and we are grateful. We confess we sometimes feel let down when the joy of Christmas day has passed. Our hope seems to get folded away with the gift wrap, our energy for the future feels a bit tattered. Forgive us when our faithfulness flickers like a Christmas candle burning down. Renew our hope and energy for the year ahead through the steadfast grace of Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. We are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us forgive one another just as God has forgiven us.

May the peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

****HYMN No. 116, St. 4**

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"

VENITE ADOREMUS

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* Roy Zimmerman

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Colossians 3:12 - 17*

MEDITATION *”Caroling with Alfred Burt”* Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Some Children See Him”* *Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt (1951)*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 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.

****HYMN No. 140** *“Once in Royal David’s City”* IRBY

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And at last our eyes shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

****Those who are able may stand.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Barbara Piercy
Susan Jones & Noel Piercy
Micki Hardenberg, Soloist & Cantor
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



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