

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service on First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021, 9:45 am

Pre-Service Music: *Ye Nations All, on You I Call* - Todd Beaney

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime* - Sandra Eithun

Introit #143: *Angels From the Realms of Glory vs. 1*

Call to Worship

Good news! Great joy!

Jesus Christ is born!

Good news! Great joy!

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #110 *Love Has Come* (please stand)

Call to Confession

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin
and to bring to us the gift of salvation.

**Let us open our hearts to receive
what God seeks to give.**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love. We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Peace on earth, mercy mild.
God and sinners reconciled.

**This is good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: *Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High*

Dramatic Reading on O Little Town of Bethlehem:

O Little Town of Bethlehem published in “52 Hymn Stories”
dramatized by Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel publications, Grand Rapids, MI, 1992

Two readers and Phillips Brooks, Episcopal Priest who wrote the text for *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

Hymn : *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vs. 1 and 4 (stay seated)

Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Merciful God. **Hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Rejoicing in your Word, made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray;

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: #154 *Jesus Entered Egypt*

Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit
show us the Word made flesh—
good news of great joy for all—
so that we may sing with the angels:
glory in the highest and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12 - 17

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1 - 23

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *All Things Change*

Mary Kwantes

Affirmation of Faith for the Season of Christmas (please stand)

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Sending Hymn#143: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* vs. 3 and 4 (remain standing)

Benediction: (remain standing)

The Light of light illumines our lives like the dawn's first rays.
The light shines and will not be overcome.
In the name of God, creation's spark;
Christ, the bright morning star; and the Spirit of fire, Amen.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Noel Nouvelet* - Anna Laura Page (please be seated)

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