**December 27, 2020 Christmas One**

News and Announcements

Prelude

**Lighting of Candle**

These past weeks we have welcomed

**the coming of Jesus as God’s gift.**

Four candles now surround our Christ candle.

They lift up all Jesus brings:

**hope, peace, joy** **and love.**

As the Christ Candle is lit,

**We prepare to ponder what we can give this amazing child:**

**Let us give the world he loves hope, peace, joy** **and love.**

**Singing: VU 96** *Will you Come and See?*

**Call to Worship**

Celebrate Christmas with hope!

**We celebrate this amazing season of Jesus’ birth.**

We celebrate with all, though we celebrated so much apart this year.

**We give thanks wholeheartedly.**

We celebrate by spreading compassion all through our relationships to stranger and friends.

**We are held securely in that love and everything is possible. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

**The angels proclaimed the good news of Jesus,**

**And declared peace and good will to all.**

**May that peace so shine in our hearts that the birth of Jesus is proclaimed in our words and deeds.**

**Amen.**

Reading from Scripture:

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**4-7**But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage.

You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” Doesn’t that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you’re also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.

**Luke 2:22-40**

**22**When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23**(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), **24**and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

**25**Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26**It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27**Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28**Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**29**“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;  
**30**for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples **32**a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

**33**And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34**Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35**so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” **36**There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37**then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38**At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39**When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

**This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.**

Word of God for us today.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Three Wise Women**

**Singing:**#VU 58 Infant Lowly

Giving Our Offerings:

**MV #191 (sing twice through)**

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, with thanks and praise, we joyfully bring this Christmas offering.

**We ask that these gifts be used to bring joy and love**

**to the world.**  We ask this in the name of the Jesus!

**The one you sent to bring us**

**joy and love, Amen.**

**Prayer of the People**

The Lord’s Prayer

We gather these prayers and we turn to you as our Mother who loves us and say the prayer Jesus taught us:

Ecumenical Spoken

**Singing: *Once in Royal* VU 62**

**Sending Out**

May the God of wonderful hope seen in soaring majesty and humble simplicity **lead us on our journey in this world.**

May God enter into our hearts this week

through the redeeming love of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen and May it be so!**

Today’s prayers were written or inspired by *Gill Le Febre, David Sparks*

and are used with permission from *Gathering’s* Christmas Epiphany, 2020 edition.