

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
Recorded Service  
**Rev. Mark Piedmonte**  
**Music Director – Gregory Fraser**  
**\* Congregation will stand**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - **During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.**

INTROIT: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 148 – Praise for God's Universal Glory!

- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
- 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
- 8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

\*OPENING PRAYER

Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sing your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who seek redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of salvation, and live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*HYMN: "The First Noel"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved of God, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ and live as God's beloved.

\*GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.***

\*WORDS & GESTURES OF PEACE: *(turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance)*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray, asking the Spirit's guidance in understanding the Scriptures:

**All: As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:22-40

**Response to the reading of God's Word:**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Bucket List"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

\*HYMN: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE / PASTORAL PRAYER

Response: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

\*SONG OF DEDICATION – DOXOLOGY

\*HYMN: "Angels from the Realm of Glory"

\*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: "The Snow Laid on the Ground"

POSTLUDE