

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Christmas Day** December 25, 2021

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Presiding Minister

Rev. Diana Edis

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.  
You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship.

*As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore*

*Today we receive the most incredible gift, a God who loves us enough to give up divinity to live and die as a human in all human frailty. We also receive a God who promises to return, to reconcile all of creation to God's self. As a part of that promise in the meantime we are given the gift of Holy Communion, an opportunity to become truly one with the body of Christ. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Spirit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may wish to set up a small home altar for use in your worship and Holy Communion using a cross, a candle, and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. You may also have an image of Christ (called an icon).*

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\* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

Welcome

Gathering Hymn

*Away in a Manger*

No. 278

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
 Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919  
 Arr. from *Carols for Choirs I*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

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### *Prayer of the Day*

**All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 62<sup>nd</sup> chapter

62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it

renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

L: The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

Our second reading is from Titus beginning at the 3rd chapter

3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

The holy gospel according to John, beginning at the 1st chapter

1:1-14

**Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Written by Bishop Susan Johnson

Preached by Rev. Diana Edis

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to [offering2stpauls@citywest.ca](mailto:offering2stpauls@citywest.ca).

You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps.

We can be found there at St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

Gracious God,

you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

*We enter into a time of communion. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Spirit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may prepare bread and wine or juice in advance of communion. You may wish to set up a small home altar for this purpose, using: a cross, a candle, an image of Christ (called an icon), and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. The pastor will have a half loaf, symbolizing that the other half of that loaf is present in front of you in your various abiding places. When the bread and*

beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Members of the same household are encouraged to serve one another.

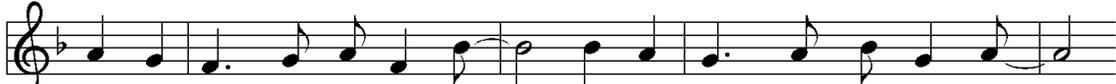
The creation of the world was your doing and is a marvel to our eyes. Your prophets told of the coming one who would teach your ways and sustain us with your word. Your son, Jesus, though one with you, gave up all he had, taking on human flesh, and walking the path of obedience all the way to insult, betrayal and death, trusting only in your love. Though he was rejected by those who had cheered him, you made him the cornerstone of new life and raised him to the highest place of honor. He has opened the gates of justice and become our salvation, so with shouts of joy we greet his appearing, and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to your glory forever.

You Are Holy

Per Harling

Pastor Diana

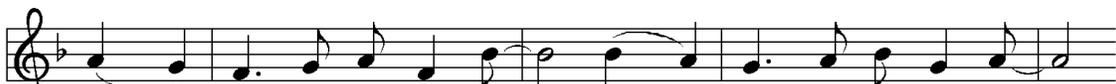
1\*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945  
Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling  
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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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We give thanks that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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

L: If the Holy Spirit calls you to this feast of bread and wine or juice, I invite you to receive that which has been prepared, each in our own places, but gathered together around the table of God. Although we are separated at this time by physical distance, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. All are welcomed and affirmed, there is a place for you at the banquet. The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

#### *Communion is offered*

L: This is the body of Christ, given for you.

**C: Amen**

L: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

**C: Amen**

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

**C: Amen**

Thank you God for once again feeding us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

#### *Benediction*

Almighty God,

who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
 Thanks be to God.