**Worship at Bethel 1-3-21**

**2nd Sunday of Christmas**

**Music: Piano: Mila Khmeleva Hymnists: Joy Faciane & Patsy Lohmer**

Gathering Music:

**Song – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW, # 270**

 1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;

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

 Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;

 With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!

 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

 2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;

 Late in time behold him come, Off-spring of a virgin’s womb.

 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!

 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

 **“Away in a Manger” ELW, # 278**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

1. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky

and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

1. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care

and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

**Welcome & Announcements – Pastor Barb**

**Opening Song: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW, # 279**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

 yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above

 While martals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.

 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

 And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

 Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

 Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**Opening Prayer**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:1-18

**Song– “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” ELW, # 282**

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,

 who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:

 look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;

Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

 4. For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,

 when with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold,

 when peace shall over all the earth it’s ancient splendors fling,

 and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Sermon **“In Him Is Life”**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

 **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

 **born of the virgin Mary,**

 **suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

 **was crucified, died, and was buried;**

 **he descended into hell.**

 **On the third day he rose again;**

 **he ascended into heaven,**

 **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

 **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

 **the holy catholic church,**

 **the communion of saints,**

 **the forgiveness of sins,**

 **the resurrection of the body,**

 **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion – Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Closing Song: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW, # 288**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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P: Go in Peace, serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**