



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
First Sunday of Christmas  
27 December 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High

Traditional English Carol

\***Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

\***Call to Worship**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Praise the Lord!

Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!  
Praise the Lord from the earth, old and young together!

God's glory is above heaven and earth.

Adopted in Christ as children of God, let us praise the Lord!

Ps. 148, Gal. 4

\***Hymn**

What Child Is This

*Greensleeves*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

\***Invitation to Confession  
and Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been the light to the nations that we are called by you to be, and our lives have not unfaithfully revealed your glory. Forgive us, God, in your mercy. In Christ, in whose coming, death, and resurrection the world is remade, repair also the ugliness of our own sin, and restore us in your sight. Let us hear and always live by your saving grace. Amen.

\***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

**Children's Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading** Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for the LORD has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
God has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels,

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Solo** Catalan Carol

Larry Shackley, arr.

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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.

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

**Sermon**    The Nations Shall See

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

*"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation..." -Luke 2:29-30*

**Music**    Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert Mac Gimsey

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger.  
Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who you were.  
Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord, to take our sins away.  
Our eyes were blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who you were.

Long time ago, you were born; born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus boy.  
The world treats you mean, Lord; treats me mean, too;  
But that's how things are down here, we don't know who you are.

You have told us how; we are trying. Master, you have shown us how,  
Even when you were dying. It just seems like we can't do right;  
Look how we treated you. But please, forgive us, Lord;  
We didn't know who you were, Jesus boy.

**The Church at Prayer**

Trio:    Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
          I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
          I can hear the brush of angels' wings;  
          I see glory on each face.  
          Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**The Lord's Prayer**

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.

**Introduction to the Offering**

**\*Offertory Response**    Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication**    Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as your children. With Jesus our brother, we dedicate ourselves in ministry to the world, that we may truly live as heirs of your promises, to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

**\*Hymn**    Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *In Dulci Jubilo*

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!

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!

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!

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Voluntary**    Carillon on the Ukranian Carol Gerald Near

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand

### **Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Julie Blythe, Amanda Neubauer, Eleanor VanDeventer; The St. Andrew's Sisters

Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Alan Schuermann, Safety Team