

**December 26, 2021 Worship**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Welcome**

**Songs:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem, Take My Life*

Call to Worship:

L: We waited.

**C: And imagined a savior.**

L: We imagined power.

**C: One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

L: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**C: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

L: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

**C: Instead, we receive a baby who will teach us our calling to follow the Christ child as we reach out to others.**

L: As we follow the light of Christ, we worship now in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**A: Amen!**

**Songs:** *Lord I Need You, Angels, From the Realms of Glory ELW 275*

**Scripture Reading:** John 1:19-34

**Children's Message**

**Message:** *Labels*

**Songs:** *My Story*

**Affirmation of Faith (9:00)**

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 to the dead. 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.

**Offering**

Lord God, you sent John into the world to prepare the way for Jesus. His selflessness helped make it possible for Jesus to change the world. Receive these gifts, given with selflessness, to help change the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**Confession**

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of New Life,

**C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles right in front us. Forgive us for living such small lives, O**

**Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. We confess these sins out loud as well as the sins we confess now in silence...**

L: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free. **A: Amen!**

### **Communion**

Our Lord Jesus entered the world with a community of prophets and followers that prepared the way for him and walked alongside him throughout his ministry. We come together as a community every time we share this meal given as a gift by a loving Lord. Come to the table, this feast is prepared for you.

**Song:** *Be Unto Your Name*

### **Prayers and The Lord's Prayer**

C: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ministry Opportunities

### Blessing

Our God has come among us!

Let the whole earth rejoice!

Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have heard and seen.

Go forth, with full confidence and joy that you have seen the Messiah.

Go forth to spread the Good News wherever you go, sharing God's love and promise with all whom you meet. Go forth from this time of worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

**Song:** *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

### Dismissal

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

**Next Sunday:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

*A few questions to consider throughout the week ...*

- What labels for other people do you use the most?
- What is the problem with labels?
- What labels would you do away with?
- How would you describe yourself in relationship to Jesus?