

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury

Online Liturgy for December 27, 2020

The First Sunday of Christmas

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant

The Lord be with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The New Testament

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like breadcrumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom

I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Rev. Dr, Joyce Caggiano

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving, and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Brothers and sisters in the faith, God has called us into the family of the church. In the Spirit of Christ, we call out "Abba, Father," asking our creator to hear the prayers we offer, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the human family:

Eternal God, you entrusted to Mary and Joseph the life of your child, Jesus. Strengthen all parents and children in the bonds of love, peace, and faith. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the household of the church:

Creator of life make your church a fruitful vine to all who are reborn in the living waters of baptism. May we find ourselves continually nourished and refreshed at the table of Christ's body and blood. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who suffer:

Consoler of the afflicted, sustain the homeless and the abandoned. Protect the widow, the widower, the orphan. Comfort those who are in hospitals around the world, especially those in need of critical care. Comfort those who mourn the dead. Especially those on our hearts and minds and those among the millions who have died of the COVID pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the families of this community:

God of love, like a mother you nourish us with your grace. Quicken in us the seed of Christ's word, that we might reveal his life to the whole human family. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God may your favor and blessing rest upon the family which you have gathered in the name of your child Jesus. Accept the prayers we offer in his name. so may your love embrace us, now and forever.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

People

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.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of our Savior through the miracle of Jesus' birth: Make our hearts and minds ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with hope, joy, peace and love as we welcome the brightness of your light into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

Celebrant

May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!