

First Sunday After Christmas

PRELUDE

| Good King Wenceslas

| *arr. J. Purifoy*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#93 v.1-2 | **Angels from the realms of glory** | *Regent Square*

| *Regent Square*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 OLD TESTAMENT | ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he 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.
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.
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.
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.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE RESPONSE | PSALM 147:13-21

Laudate Dominum

- 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 bread crumbs; *
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 EPISTLE | 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.

GRADUAL HYMN

#112 v.1,2,4 | In the bleak midwinter | Cranham

THE GOSPEL | JOHN 1:1-18

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts that we will share in these days are small reminders of the Gift that shines in the newborn Jesus tonight. From grateful hearts let us pray for all who need God's true gift, saying: Lord, hear our

prayer.

That the peace shared by angels in the shepherd's field might be spread to every field of war and every street of danger and violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the baby Jesus might find welcome in our hearts as we welcome the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That in this time of gift giving we might remember those who are alone, forgotten, and sad, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the joy of this day might hold us close in the community of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the newborn life of Jesus might give life to all who are sick or hurting, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?

Celebrant God of darkness and silence, your light has shone on all of us who are here tonight. May our praise and prayer shine your light in the world, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God, this night and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly

| *Freuet euch..*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

#100 v.1,2,4 | Joy to the world

| *Antioch*

POSTLUDE

Lectors :: Cathy Seltzer & Emmanuel Gemora
Usher :: Frank Heidrick & Friend | **Acolyte** :: Kim Gill