



DECEMBER 28, 2025 | 9:00 AM | FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack

Organist: Darlene Johnson

Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger

There is no Sunday School today, but our nursery is open. We encourage parents to keep their child in worship today—there will be plenty of singing to keep them occupied.

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in presenting the offering.

WORDS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Cameron Trimble:

The solstice does not tell us that things will be easy. It tells us that limits exist—even for darkness. That systems bend before they heal. That the work of turning often happens without applause, certainty, or immediate reward... The invitation is not to rush toward light, but to live as people who understand how turning works—slowly, subtly, and with consequences that unfold over time. That kind of understanding does not make us passive. It makes us patient in the strongest sense of the word: capable of bearing what must be borne without surrendering to despair.

*** Invites those comfortably able to do so to stand.**

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

* OPENING HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #144

GREETING AND INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God sent from heaven above,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of
Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior
of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

* HYMN *O Come All Ye Faithful* #148

Sharing God's Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

LESSON FROM THE prophets Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

9 in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

* A CAROL FOR TODAY *In the Bleak Midwinter*

*In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872, alt.

CRANHAM Irregular
Gustav T. Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost-y wind made moan,
2. Our God, heav'n can-not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
3. What can I give him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
what I can I give him - Give my heart.

GOSPEL LESSON **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

This is the good news.

In these words we find eternal life.

MESSAGE

* CAROL OF HOPE

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

(See Page 6)

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

* 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* SPECIAL CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory #149

Verses 1 & 4

MISSION MOMENT

The Christmas Fund

CALL TO THE OFFERING

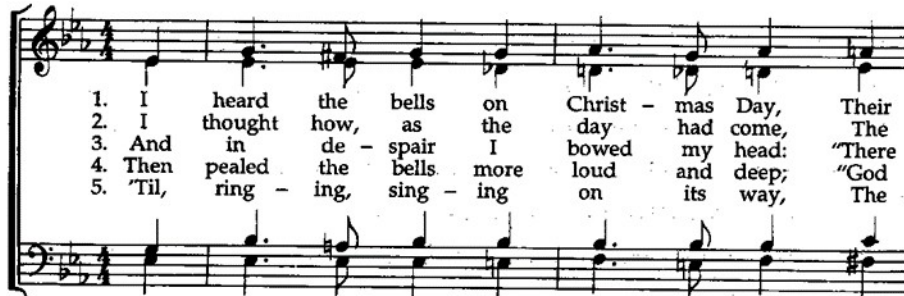
* OFFERING OUR GIFTS

(The ushers will pass the plates for the offertory. For electronic giving, at any time you may text "ststephens" to 73256 and follow the prompts to make your offering securely through Vanco®)


I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

Henry W. Longfellow, 1807 - 1882

J. Baptiste Calkin, 1827 - 1905



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas Day, Their
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The
 3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep; "God
 5. 'Til, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The



old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the
 bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom Had rolled a - long th'un-
 is no peace on earth," I said. "For hate is strong, and
 is not dead, nor doth [God] sleep; The wrong shall fail, the
 world re - volved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a



words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to [all].
 bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to [all].
 mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to [all].
 right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good will to [all].
 chant sub - lime, Of peace on earth, good will to [all]!

Alternatives

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION *The First Noel* vs. 1 #151

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the songs of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

* CLOSING HYMN *Go Tell It on the Mountain* #167

* BENEDICTION

The God of hope,
Through Christ our peace,
In the power of the Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.

Amen!

Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Jesus, Name Above All Names

***Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.***

POSTLUDE

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Today's reading from John takes us to the moment of creation and the forming of order from the chaos of the dark void of creation. There are wonderful pictures from the James Webb and Hubble telescopes. Look some up on the computer—or an HD TV if you can see them there. Talk with your children about how vast space is and how God has created it all. Jesus was there at that moment of creation and Jesus is here with us now through the Holy Spirit. There is no where they can go where God will not be there for them.

Radio Ministry is in memory of Gary Sholund Sr. for his November 26th birthday from Pat Schultz and son Randy.

Coffee Fellowship is hosted by the Stevenson and Golisch families.

Livestream is sponsored by Stan & Deb Seegar. Wishing Everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

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