



Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas

~THE PEOPLE GATHER~

GATHERING MUSIC

Mindy Sampson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Rich Holmes

One: We come to worship seeking new beginnings, seeking renewed bodies and minds, seeking a new way of understanding.

***All: We come knowing by faith that you, O God, are the author of all our new beginnings. Renew us and refresh us, we pray. Show us a new way of seeing and a new way of being. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 84

Rich Holmes

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

***All: Our souls long, indeed they faint for the courts of the Lord; our hearts and our flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

One: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars.

***All: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

Opening Hymn

"Brightest and Best of the Stars"

Elliot Smith

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, remember that our Lord Jesus is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since he was tempted in every way that we are, but without sin. Let us therefore with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may find grace to help in time of need. Let us now pray the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God of infinite glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory, shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (pastor) Friends, hear these words from Jesus: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Trust these words and know that your sins are forgiven.

ACCEPTANCE OF FORGIVENESS (All) - We rejoice that we are forgiven and we are at peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* SHARING SIGNS OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST One: Let us share God's Peace with one another, and with the world, by waving to the other members or using a Zoom icon to send a greeting.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: As we listen for the Good News of Christ among us, let us pray:

***All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the work of your Holy Spirit, so that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is experienced, we may hear with joy the word that you have for us today.**

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaias 60:1-

6

Spanish liturgist: Eloise Sanchez

Levántate, Jerusalén, envuelta en resplandor, porque ha llegado tu luz y la gloria del Señor brilla sobre ti. La oscuridad cubre la tierra, la noche envuelve a las naciones, pero el Señor brillará sobre ti y sobre ti aparecerá su gloria. Las naciones vendrán hacia tu luz, los reyes vendrán hacia el resplandor de tu amanecer. Levanta los ojos, y mira a tu alrededor: todos se reúnen y vienen

hacia ti. Tus hijos vendrán desde lejos; tus hijas serán traídas en brazos. Tú, al verlos, estarás radiante de alegría, tu corazón se llenará de gozo; te traerán los tesoros de los países del mar, te entregarán las riquezas de las naciones. Te verás cubierta de caravanas de camellos que vienen de Madián y de Efá; vendrán todos los de Sabá, cargados de oro y de incienso, y proclamarán las acciones gloriosas del Señor.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

READING FROM THE GREEK SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

English liturgist: Rich Holmes

Solo

“Keep God’s Light”

Elliot Smith

SERMON

“Following the Star”

Rich Holmes

~RESPONDING TO THE WORD~

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER (Ecumenical version, adapted)

Our Lord God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

One: O God, as wise men of old brought gifts and worshipped a new born baby, so we bring this loaf, cup and all our tithes and offerings in his praise.

***All: Let these gifts be like the gold, frankincense and myrrh of those who followed the star shining over Bethlehem. May they bless the child in the manger, as well as everyone who seeks to be blessed in his name. Amen.**

SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

Participating in the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Almighty God, in the sharing of this one loaf and one cup, we are made one with your church in every time and place.

***All: May we continue to share your gifts and live as one people in the name of Jesus, until the day your reign is complete. Amen.**

~FOLLOWING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD~

Musical Response

“In Christ There is No East or West”

Elliot Smith

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mindy Sampson

***The congregation is asked to join in the responses labeled “All” but to keep their microphones muted. The liturgist, Anne Hays Egan, will keep her microphone on.**