

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021

(Please print out so that you can join us while singing and praying during worship. Streamed on FACEBOOK and ZOOM)

** This is a service of **HOLY COMMUNION**; we welcome all to participate but please worship in a quiet place while also having a **piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/water** with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The light of Bethlehem's star continues to shine brightly.

We enter a new year looking to You God!

The Gospel lessons of Jesus provide us direction for living.

We thank You God for Your Holy Word!

Our lives need Jesus; and God we need Your Holy Spirit.

We come to worship and praise You!

We are here knowing we need You God!

We are here to worship and be renewed in Christ!

OPENING HYMN – Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; In our life,
eternity, In our death, a resurrection; At the last, a victory, Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Almighty God who created the universe, forgive us for the times we didn't turn to You because we were absorbed in our desire to be in the world. Forgive us for the many sins of pride, name calling of our neighbors, exaggerations, and hardness of heart we committed this past year. Please forgive us our sin of unforgiveness towards others. Forgive us for the times when the Holy Spirit spoke to us and we did not pay attention because we were consumed in our own ways. We admit that we have allowed the voices in our world to turn us against our neighbors and we ask for your forgiveness in our failure to love all of our neighbors. Bring us closer to You O God in the coming days and let us leave 2020 behind us. In Jesus' name.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS of ASSURANCE

SONG of PRAISE – Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father. There is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou

changest not, thy compassions they fail not as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest. Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and peace that endureth. Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine with ten thousand
beside.

Refrain

MINISTRY of MUSIC – WE THREE KINGS – Rich Favretto, Norman Branyan, &
Stephen Miller

SCRIPTURE LESSON –

Jeremiah 31: 7-14 and JOHN 1: 10-18

MESSAGE of the DAY – Reverend Dave Delaney

‘THE HOPE IN COMING HOME’

PASTORAL PRAYER followed by **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

OUR OFFERINGS of LOVE – Tithes/Offerings/Gifts can be mailed to St. Paul’s UMC,
PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086 or they can be shared online through
<https://stpaulsalive.org>.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Awaken us, O Lord God, with your grace for the future. Bless our tithes, gifts, and offerings.
As you graciously forgive our sins, protect and strengthen us from all danger of future sins,
so that we may serve you with a clear conscience, and joyfully receive our Lord Jesus Christ
when he comes again in glory; he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. Amen.

SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed all of humanity in Your image
giving us life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained. You delivered us from captivity, You are our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be a light to the nations. You have mercy on those who love You from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to Your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you O God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Almighty God, Your power transcends human understanding and Your love for all has been evident since the beginning of time. We ask that You pour out Your Holy Spirit on all of us who have gathered to worship with you today on the holy ground each of us is on, and on the simple elements of Your creation that we have before us remembering how Jesus transformed bread and wine on that night in Jerusalem. Allow these elements that we each have with us this morning to become for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry through our words, our actions, and through our use of technology to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG TO GO INTO THE WORLD WITH – SEND THE LIGHT

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless waves, "Send the Light! Send the Light." There are souls to rescue there are souls to save,

Refrain: Send the Light! Send the Light! Send the Light, the blessed gospel light; Let it shine from shore to shore! Send the Light, the blessed gospel light; Let it shine forever more!

Let us pray that grace may ev'rywhere abound, "Send the Light! Send the Light!" And, a Christ-like spirit ev'rywhere be found,

Refrain

Let us not grow weary in the work of love, "Send the Light! Send the Light!" Let us gather jewels for a crown above,

Refrain

BENEDICTION