January 2nd, 2022 – 10:30am
Springfield Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
Christmas II

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle
Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:
**People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**

Gathering of the People
Leader: The Lord be with you!
**People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]

Call to Worship [Psalm 147 NRSV]
Leader: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
**People: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
Leader: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
**People: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**
Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
**People: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**
Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.
**People: He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.**
Leader: He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.
**People: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;**
Leader: But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.
**People: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!**
Leader: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.
**People: He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.**
Leader: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.
**People: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.**
Leader: He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?
**People: He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.**
Leader: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
**People: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!**

\* Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful - #133

Call to Confession
The sun settles into its slumber around four and we light a candle. We miss the light, sitting outside, gardening, laughing with loved ones. We wonder what this darkness might offer us, what it might teach us, as we wait for the light. We also know that the light, the light of this world is already here among us, if we only look more closely. Help us to do just that in this season, as we pray together, admitting our faults and failures, and seeking new life within you and your Word. Amen.

Prayer of Confession
Generous God, we look around our lives and the winter has settled in and the sun has seemed to go to sleep. We see the darkness around us and we have become cynical, frustrated, and weary. In that space, you know and love us still, but call us to see a light: the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, entering the world. Forgive us when the darkness outweighs the light. Restore us to be a people who look for the light, look for hope, and look for your Spirit moving within us and around us. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Response

Words of Assurance
Leader: The promise is sure, for Christ came into this world not to condemn, but to offer new life and salvation for all people.
**People: Let us rejoice in the news of the newborn babe and the gift of forgiveness, given unto us. We are forgiven, we are free, so let us be made new. Amen.**

Response

The Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!
**People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)

The Proclamation of the Word

*Prayer of Illumination*
Generous God, open our ears, remove any din or distraction, let us hear clearly. Open our eyes, to the ways you’ve moved in the past and the ways you continue to move today. Open our hearts to dream of the possibilities that lie in your Word. Open the whole of us, so that we may be made renewed. Amen.

*Scripture Lesson* **John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And 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. 15(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.’”) 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

*Meditation* Looking for Light

*The Response to the Word*

*\* Hymn*  O Little Town of Bethlehem - #121

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| *Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer* “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.”Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”**And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray…**Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and 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.** |

*Hymn* Away in a Manger - #115

*Charge and Benediction*
Leader: In this new year,
**People: Let us follow the call to look for light.**
Leader: Let us light a candle,
**People: And be brave enough to seek it.**
Leader: For God is amongst us,
**People: Illuminating the way to a brighter hope and a brighter future.**

*Postlude*