



December 26, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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After Christmas Thought

Happy Day After Christmas, Merry Rest of the Year, even when
Christmas is over, The Light of the World is Still Here!

Matthew West

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Children are precious to God.
The child Samuel grew in God's favor
and the child Jesus grew likewise.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Older adults and elders are precious to God.
Young and old together praise God's name.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Creation is precious to God:
cedars, mountains, snow & frost, shining stars.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Invocation

Psalm 148

Creator God, you are worthy to be praised.

You have created

“Rulers of the earth and all peoples,

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!”

You made them to be together

in a good creation that provides for them,

a world covered in

“Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!”

All of life is connected by your design.

We give you thanks for creating all of us, invaluable. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Colossians 3:12,14

O God, clothe us anew,
for we confess we do not clothe our spirits as you require.
The compassion we clothe ourselves with is conditional.
The love we clothe ourselves with is limited.
Forgiveness and gratitude:
these are the garments we need to live in community,
yet we rend them and fail to fit them,
over and over again.
Weave us new garments which do not need mending,
clothes that protect us like suits of armor
and that we can delight in like cozy sweaters.
May we outwardly show what we inwardly know:
Your love has no bounds.

Words of Pardon

The Word of Christ indeed dwells within you richly and shines through you brightly. It dwells and shines also in your neighbor, near and far. We need only let our lights mingle to know firsthand the connective power of Incarnate Love. Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26 NIV

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. ²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 2:41-52 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

"Away in a Manger"

TH #109

Today's Message

Christmas Call to Communion

Shine upon us, God of light and life. Reach into our darkened world, find the corners where we hide from you, and move us into your marvelous light. As you sent Jesus to be born and live among us, be born in us anew this night. Come and live within our hearts and our world that we may find new life in the joy of your presence, for you are Emmanuel. Amen.

* *Communion Carol* “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

VH #94

Communion Litany

The peace of 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 him thanks and praise.

Angels sing the story. Shepherds’ eyes glow with wonder.
All creation bursts forth in praise of the one who from the beginning of time was one with you.

The prophets believed in his coming. The poor ones raised their hearts in hope. Those who knew nothing but the darkness of sorrow cried out for relief; and into this world Jesus came, breaking bread, giving thanks, and saying,
“This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Taking a cup, and as always giving thanks, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Holy Christmas Spirit, breathe your life into us now, that our beating hearts might forever move to the impulse of your love.

Holy Christmas Spirit, breathe your life into us now, that through these gifts we may live in ways that declare your grace.

Holy Christmas Spirit, breathe your life into us now, that we may sing with joy at the birth of God's Son.

Eternal God, King of heaven and earth:

The life and death of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we proclaim;

His resurrection from the dead and his ascension, we confess;

His coming in triumph, we await.

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Behold! The Son of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you.

But, only speak the Word and I shall be healed.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Empowered by the Holy Christmas Spirit, receive now the blessing of the Christ-child ...

Sharing of the Elements

Now, may the body and blood under the bread and cup nourish you in hope, faith and love, keeping you safe in God's family.

Prayer

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.

You commission us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* *Sung Response*

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

Just as you, Holy God, crossed every conceivable barrier by taking on flesh and teaching on behalf of the outcast and poor, we are called to respond in kind by your grace. May the gifts offered today aid truly your work of reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

VH #96

* *Benediction*

Go forth and whatever you do, do it according to the heart of Jesus, our Sovereign. Teach children, and let children teach you, cultivate wisdom and gratitude, and mend the earth in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*