



Virtual Worship Service
The Second Sunday of the Christmas Season
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 3, 2021

Reflection before Worship:

At its Greek root the phrase "to believe" simply means "to give one's heart to." Thus, if we can determine what it is we give our heart to, then we will know what it is we believe.

*-Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace*, p 62*

Prelude: *Light of the World*

Sung by contemporary Christian artist, Lauren Daigle: https://youtu.be/_cLhaZIBSpo

Call to worship:

People of the world, it is time to celebrate new beginnings.

People of faith, it is time to look ahead in hope.

We step into the unknown with hope!

People of hope, it is time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

We step forward together as God's family!

Hymn of Praise # 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Sing along with North Church, Perthshire Scotland: <https://youtu.be/MxO6N4AbmXk>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice. *(Refrain)*

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed. *(Refrain)*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone. *(Refrain)*

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come. *(Refrain)*

Call to confession

As we begin a New Year, we are reminded that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Yet we are fearful and anxious; we find it difficult at times to trust in the light of God — the Word of God made flesh. Let us therefore confess our sin, trusting God's promise of light and grace.

Prayer of confession

O God, you create and sustain all things by your Word. Your love is manifest throughout your good creation. Indeed, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so that we might see, hear and know you in ways never before possible. But we do not always trust in that revelation and in your sustaining power. We sometimes doubt that your abundant love will overcome the darkness in "our world." Forgive our disbelief. Have mercy upon us for our failure to abide in Christ and to walk in his light (moment of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and from that fullness we have all received grace upon grace. And to all who receive this good news, God grants power to become children of God—power to participate in God’s own life. Let us bear that family resemblance into the life of the world, for we are forgiven and restored to walk in the Light of Christ and to see that Light in others.

Special Anthem: *You Raise Me Up*

Sung by the Children’s Choir of Color Music: <https://youtu.be/TRclEMgppK8>

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.



Sermon: “The Word Became Flesh” (included as PDF file in the email)

Hymn of Meditation # 509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990; Music: William Moore’s Columbian Harmony, 1825

Sing along with St. Columba’s Episcopal Church: <https://youtu.be/dEJSJskgcb0>

**All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion’s love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.”**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

This is a New Year filled with new possibilities for the sharing of our time, our talents, and our resources. May God inspire each of us, all of us, to be grateful for all we are and all we have by sharing our abundant blessings in joy with those who are in need physically and spiritually, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us receive this morning’s offering.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of joy, thank you for life, for breath, for our bodies, for all that you have given us. Receive our gifts given with joy and thanksgiving. May they support the joyful work of your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(if you are not partaking in communion, skip down to the last hymn)

Introduction:

As you prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper, place a loaf of bread (or a slice) on a plate and fill a cup with juice or wine. These are the elements that will be blessed as Christ invites us to share in the joyful feast. It is Christ who invites us to the table, Christ who feeds us, and Christ who calls us to share his body with others in ways that are healthy, helpful, and hopeful.

You may want to have one person be the liturgist sharing the parts that are not bolded and everyone else gathered be the congregation sharing the words that are bolded. If you are by yourself, please share in the liturgy knowing that our congregation and all the communion of saints are sharing in this holy meal with you.



Invitation:

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south and from east and west
to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.
This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share in the feast he has prepared.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Holy God, we praise you.

Let the heavens be joyful,
and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world,
for your promises to your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.

Guiding his children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us.

Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Risen from the dead, he gives new life.
Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup
and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.
Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,
that we may serve as your faithful disciples
until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh,
in the holy and life-giving Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.



Words of Institution:

(Hold the bread and break it into two pieces)

***On the night that he was betrayed,
Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.***

(Hold the cup up to God)

***In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.***

***Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.***

Let us pray:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples 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.
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.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Pass the bread to the person next to you and say, "The Body of Christ given for you."
Pass the cup to the person next to you and say, "The Blood of Christ shed for you."
You can take the bread and hold it and dip it in the cup
or you can eat the bread and drink from the cup.
(Practice what is the safest, health wise, as you share in communion).

Prayer after Communion:

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to be the Body of Christ
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Closing Hymn # 450 *Be Thou My Vision*

Text: Irish poem translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; Music: Irish ballad
Sing along with Voices of Ireland: <https://youtu.be/rEP8SkGOnbE>

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.**

Charge and Benediction:

Go now into the world inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Live generously, with open hands,
loving others as if your life depended on it.
Be Christ's Body, the spitting image of our Creator,
so that God may be glorified in all that you say and do.

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

And may the abundant love of God surround you,
may the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ sustain you,
and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit
inspire and encourage you in every good deed and word. Amen.

Postlude: *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

Helen Levitt, Photographer

Text and Music: South African, 1984

A spontaneously combined choir sang this song together for the first time
on Thursday, 12 April 2018: <https://youtu.be/yce70iUsxqQ>



Photographer, Helen Levitt

