

**Spirit of Grace Church**  
**January 24, 2021**  
**ELCA Synod Worship**

**Welcome to Spirit of Grace community from Pastor Peggy Rose**  
**Welcome from Rev. Sean Ewbank**

---

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude**

Total Praise by Richard Smallwood

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
Who formed order out of chaos,  
Who numbered the stars,  
Whose creating hand makes all things new. **Amen.**

Beloved, let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of God our maker.

Holy one,

**You are our beginning and our end.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not believed that we are made in your image.**

**We have neglected to notice your presence in our neighbors and in the stranger.**

**We have tried to save ourselves instead of looking to your grace.**

**Have mercy on us, God and forgive us,**

**For the things we have done and the things we have failed to do**

**That, trusting in your love, we may be more aware of the new things that you are doing  
around us and in us, Amen.**

Receive the Good news that God proclaims:

You are, indeed, God's beloved.

You are, indeed, made in God's image.

You are, indeed, forgiven.

As God's beloved, called, claimed, and forgiven,

Let us proclaim God's love, mercy, and justice, to the world.

Amen



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin, GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
 www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

### Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

### God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

#### Reading

Romans 12:9-18

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

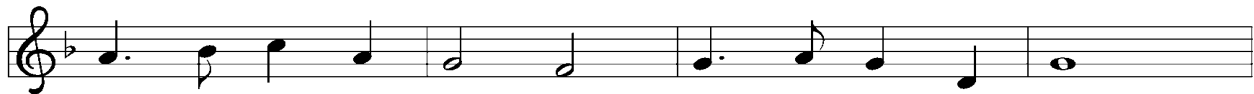
Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

#### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day

In the Bleak Midwinter, ELW #294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

### *Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### *Prayers of Intercession*

Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace.

**God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

**God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new behaviors. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation.

**God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Hear these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen

### ***Thanksgiving for the Word***

We praise you, O God, for your creating Word!

You set the foundations of the world  
and gave breath to every living thing.

There is no Rock like you.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

**our hearts sing of your mercy and might!**

We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word!

In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed,  
you guided them by your strength to the land of promise.

You have lifted up the lowly.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

**our hearts sing of your mercy and might!**

We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word!

Your Word became flesh and lived among us,  
full of grace and truth.

You have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servants.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

**our hearts sing of your mercy and might!**

Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore,  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary,  
we give you thanks and praise for your  
creating, liberating, and life-giving Word!

Send us forth in the power of your Spirit  
to sing of your greatness and serve all people,  
following Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.** (*Exodus 15; 1 Samuel 2; Psalm 113; Luke 1; John 1*)

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### ***Sending***

***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

#### **The Blessing**

God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.  
God grant you grace and peace at the dawn of this new year.  
**Amen.**

All flesh is grass, but the word of God remains forever.  
God who is eternal keep you in hope of the resurrection.  
**Amen.**

The past, the present, and the future rest in God's hands.  
God guard your coming in and your going forth,  
this new year and forevermore.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# Closing Hymn

# O Christ the Same, WOV # 778

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Dismissal

Go In Peace, Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God

## Postlude

Walk with me Lord - Traditional

**Participants –**

Pastor Sean Ewbank, Director of Evangelical Mission for the Southeast Michigan Synod

Vicar Amelia Collins

Pastor Colleen Nieman

Wesley Reynoso, Director of Music Ministry

Tom Nieman, tech support

Claire Schreiber, soloist

---

**Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License  
Confession and Forgiveness by The Rev. Jennifer Kiefer  
Prayers of Intercession are from the World Council of Churches' booklet for the Week of  
Prayer for Christian Unity, Vigil 3.**