

# SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas  
Online Worship  
January 3, 2021

**PRELUDE** “Away in a Manger” – arr. Michael Ware Elizabeth Blood, piano  
Adam Peithmann, organ

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Kevin Pleas

**INTROIT** “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” – Bob McGee

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Blessings to God, who gives hope in the darkness of our lives.

**People: Blessings to Jesus Christ, who reveals God’s love unto the world.**

Leader: Blessings to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to be a light for others.

**People: Blessings, honor, and glory to God, today and forever. Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**O Lord, our God, you are always more ready to give your good gifts to us than we are to seek them, and you are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find; so to ask that we may joyfully receive; so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**HYMN # 153** “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Barbara Papagian

## TIME OF SILENCE

## OUR 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 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 4) Michaela Horan

**SCRIPTURE READING** Lisa Allen

Matthew 12:22-28 (Common English Bible)

They brought to Jesus a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak. Jesus healed him so that he could both speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, “This man couldn’t be the Son of David, could he?” When the Pharisees heard, they said, “This man throws out demons only by the authority of Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” Because Jesus knew what they were thinking, he replied, “Every kingdom involved in civil war becomes a wasteland. Every city or house torn apart by divisions will collapse. If Satan throws out Satan, he is at war with himself. How then can his kingdom endure? And if I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul, then by whose authority do your

followers throw them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if I throw out demons by the power of God's Spirit, then God's kingdom has already overtaken you.

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

“A House Divided”

**HYMN # 150**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

**CLOSING WORDS**

**BENEDICTION (Unison)**

**May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness,  
Who comes with healing in his wings,  
Fill you with the joy and peace that passes all understanding.  
And the blessings of God almighty,  
The Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.**

**Amen**

**POSTLUDE**

“Praeludium in D Major” – D. Buxtehude

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**Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.**

**Hymn No. 153****“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. And you beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the every circling years shall come the time foretold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Prayer Response****Hymn No. 144****“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 4)**

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

**Hymn No. 150****“Hark! the Herald Angel’s Sing”**

*3. All hail the Sun of Righteousness! He is risen with healing in his wings. His glory by no more may die; born to raise us from the earth to second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing to the newborn King. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all the brings, risen with healing in his wings, mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”