



A LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME
THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 26, 2021

FOR REFLECTION

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store.
What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

DR. SEUSS | *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*

“It is only in and through Jesus Christ that man’s eclipse of God can come to an end and he can emerge again out of darkness into light.”

T.F. TORRENCE | *“The Eclipse of God”*

“We must practice the presence of God. He said that when two or three are gathered together, there He is in the midst of them. He is with us in our kitchens, at our tables, on our breadlines, with our visitors, on our farms. When we pray for our material needs, it brings us closer to His humanity. He too, needed food and shelter. He, too, warmed His hands at a fire and lay down in a boat to sleep. When we have spiritual reading at meals... when we have study groups, forums...Christ is there with us. What we do is very little. But it is like the little boy with a few loaves and fishes. Christ took that little and increased it. He will do the rest.”

DOROTHY DAY | *Catholic Worker, Feb. 1940*

The following liturgy takes about 15-20 minutes. Simple by nature, it is easily adapted for individuals, groups or families. Like our regular Sunday worship, the liturgy includes call and response. If with others, designate a leader or take turns leading different sections of the liturgy. An individual may say all the parts. Sing as you feel led or take a few moments to mediate on the lyrics of each hymn.

Christ comes to us in the flesh to reconcile us to God and to another. Christ comes to us as the Light of the World to overcome sin and darkness, bearing the gracious gift of new life for you, your neighbor and the world. Christ has come and is coming again to complete his work of redemption and restoration. Wherever you may be on this Sunday and with whomever you share it, may this time of worship draw you deeper into the wonderful Good News of Jesus’s coming.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Our King and Savior now draws near!
Response **O Come, let us adore him!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together Good and gracious God, you have given us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to come to us and to become like us in flesh and appearance. Through his coming we can say confidently that you have not left us and you will never forsake us. Grant us the grace and the peace to live into this reality and to accept the adoption that you offer and may we be daily renewed in this grace by your Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

(If using, light the four Advent candles and the Christmas candle.)

Leader Why do we light these candles?
Together To remember Jesus Christ is the light of the world, God who comes to us and makes his dwelling among us!

HYMN - JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.	3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN - GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

REFRAIN

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

JOHN 1:1-5; LUKE 2:8-20

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN - ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

4. See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

Take a few moments to share and offer up prayers and thanksgivings. Look back on Advent. How has God been faithful? Look forward to the rest of the Christmas season and 2022. What are your hopes and desires for yourself and your neighbor, city and world? Offer these to God in joy and hope. The Savior has come and is coming again! Then conclude with the *Nunc Dimitis* below.

NUNC DIMITTIS: THE SONG OF SIMEON

Together Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

THE BENEDICTION

Together The joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the Magi,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas.
And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us
and remain with us always. **Amen!**

NOTES



www.gracepasadena.org