**Worship Bulletin for December 26, 2021**

**Welcome and Announcements ~** Jim West

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Community

Holiday Project!

Wednesday ~ Seeking God Together Meeting via zoom at 11 am.

Thursday ~ Choir Practice at 7 pm in the vestry.

Happy Anniversary to Jeremy and Annie Crumb on Dec. 29th

and Happy Birthday to Linda Hulett on Dec. 30th!

*The poinsettias in the front of the church are from ~*

*Paul Bauers in loving memory of Susan Walk Bauers,*

*Rev. Robert & wife Grace Walk and*

*Rev. Dr. J. Elwood & wife Elsie Bauers*

*Jim & Cathy Comar in loving memory of Ken & Mary Jean Pierce, Pete & Bev Comar, and Judy Comar.*

*Martha Thompson in loving memory of her son, Matt Thompson*

*Barb and Jim West in loving memory of Miriam & Paul Wertman,*

 *Mark George, and Cora & Lewis West.*

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**Word of Preparation** ~ Jim West

**Prelude ~** Barb will play ***“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”***

as we prepare our hearts for worship.

**Call to Worship ~** excerpts of **“For All Who Give You a Face”**

 (Please join in reading the bold lines.)

For all who give you a face, Lord Jesus,

 by spreading your love in the world, we praise you

**For all who reveal you simply by what they are, Lord Jesus,**

**because they reflect your beauty in their lives, we praise you**

You are the God of a thousand faces,

yet whom nothing can reveal completely

except the face of the child in Bethlehem, we pray to you:

**Continue in our lives the mystery of Christmas.**

**Let your Son live in us so that we may be for all our brothers and sisters the revelation of your love.**

**Song ~ *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*** (# 148, blue verses 1, 2, and 4)

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels*

***Chorus***

***O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above*

*Glory to God all, glory in the highest*

*Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born for our salvation
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing*

John Francis Wade, 1743 | Public Domain

**Praying Together ~**

*Space for requests*

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

**Choir Song ~ “*When the Angel’s Song is Silent”***

**Song ~ *“Once in Royal David’s City”* (#165, blue)**

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child*

*He came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us He grew
He was little weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew
Thus He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love
For that Child who seemed so helpless*

*Lives and reigns in heaven above
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone*

Words ~ Cecil alexander, 1848 Music ~ Henry Gauntlett, 1849 | Public domain

**Introducing the Sermon ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons

**Scripture Text ~ Luke 2:21-38 (TPT)** read by Jim West

**21**On the day of the baby’s circumcision ceremony,

 eight days after his birth, his parents gave him the name Jesus,

 the name prophesied by the angel before he was born.

 **22**Forty days after the birth of her son,

Mary’s time of purification had completed,

 so she came to the temple with a sacrifice,

 according to the law of Moses.

 So Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to Jerusalem

to be dedicated before the Lord.

 **23**For it is stated in the law of the Lord,

“Every firstborn male shall be set apart for God”…

 **24**and is required to offer a prescribed sacrifice,

“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

**25**As they came to the temple to fulfill this requirement, an elderly man was there waiting—

a resident of Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

He was a very good man, a lover of God who kept himself pure,

and the Spirit of holiness rested upon him.

Simeon believed in the imminent appearing of the one called

“The Refreshing of Israel.”

**26**For the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he saw the Messiah, the Anointed One of God.

**27**Keeping his promise, the Holy Spirit led Simeon

 to be in the temple court at the very moment Jesus’ parents entered to fulfill the requirement of the sacrifice.

**28**Simeon cradled the baby in his arms

and praised God and prophesied:

**29–31**“Lord and Master, I am your loving servant,

 and now I can die content,
    for you have fulfilled your promise to me.
    With my own eyes I have seen your Word,
    the Savior you sent into the world.
**32**He will be glory for your people Israel,
    and the Revelation-Light for all people everywhere!”

**33**Mary and Joseph stood there,

awestruck over what was being said about their baby.

Simeon then blessed them and prophesied over Mary, saying:

**34–35**“A painful sword will one day pierce your inner being,
    for your child will be rejected by many in Israel.
    And the destiny of your child is this:
    he will be laid down as a miracle sign
    for the downfall and resurrection of many in Israel.
    Many will oppose this sign, but it will expose to all
    the innermost thoughts of their hearts before God.”

**36–37**A prophetess named Anna was also in the temple court that day. She was from the tribe of Asher and the daughter of Phanuel.

 Anna was an aged widow who had been married only seven years before her husband passed away.

 After he died, she chose to worship God in the temple continually. For the past eighty-four years she had been serving God

with night-and-day prayer and fasting.

**38**While Simeon was prophesying over Mary and Joseph

and the baby, Anna walked up to them

 and burst forth with a great chorus of praise to God for the child. From that day forward she told everyone in Jerusalem

who was waiting for their redemption

that the anticipated Messiah had come!

**Sermon ~** Rev. Rebecca Sommons  **~**

 ***“The Holy Spirit Helps Us Recognize the Light”***

Space for notes ~

**Song ~** The worship team will lead us in singing

***“Here I Am to Worship”***

*Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You*

***Chorus***

***So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me***

*King of all days, oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

***Chorus***

*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

***Chorus***

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**Benediction ~** from Psalm 18:28 (TPT)

**Dear God, may you turn on a floodlight for us!
    You are the revelation-light in our darkness,
    and in your brightness we can see the path ahead.**