

2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021
Roberta Kearney preaching, Pauline Sexton assisting

Prelude "Children, Go Where I Send Thee/Go Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Joseph Martin
Bev Fulgham, piano

Words of Welcome

Hymn 151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" KINGS OF ORIENT
(verses 1 and 2)

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, you reveal your love by the light of Jesus Christ and teach your faithful people by the light of your Spirit. You are the searcher of hearts. You see in us more good and beauty than we have dared to believe. You beckon us to do more than we have dared to try. Our memories are short, Eternal God, and we need your nudges to remember your blessings. We get caught up in the worries and wrinkles of living and lose sight of your abiding presence. The urgent and the necessary crowd out playful thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude. We are polite, but distant. We have manners but have little feeling behind the words.

Forgive us, faithful God, for outward obedience and inner hesitations. Let your light brighten our way, your peace ease our anxious moments, your love heal our troubled minds, your joy kindle our memory and hope. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name.

(Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

God in Jesus Christ is the light for our path, leading us to live as forgiven and grateful people. The light of Christ's love shines in us, making it possible to live with such joy and fire that all the world may know God's love.

Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Douglas Court
Jeff Fulgham, flugelhorn; Bev Fulgham, piano

Time with the Children

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon "Discerning and Seeking"

Affirmation of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

**we trust in one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

Offertory "Joy to the World" arr. Joseph Martin
Bev Fulgham, piano

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
(verses 1 and 4)

Benediction

Postlude "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Robert Sterling
Jeff Fulgham, trumpet; Bev Fulgham, piano

New Life! The rose on the Communion Table celebrates the birth of Benjamin Lin Moore, born on December 19, to Sandy and Allison Moore. The proud DPC grandparents are Mike and Peggy Moore.

Special thanks to Steve Quist for serving as Lay Leader today and to Bev and Jeff Fulgham for sharing their musical gifts with us.

Liturgy notes. Today's affirmation of faith is taken from *A Brief Statement of Faith*.