

Sebastopol United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 27, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

God putting the person of Jesus the human flesh, and sending him into the world to demonstrate God's love for us.

Theme for the day:

Like the prophet, we can see Christ in our church and in our faithfulness.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For the Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name.

Pastor: Praise the Lord from the highest heaven.

People: **The sun and moon, and all the stars in the sky, sing praises to our God.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord from the deepest valley.

People: **The mountains and hills, and all the trees in the forest, worship the Lord on high.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord from the heart filled with song.

Unison: **The old and young, and all the saints of God, sing with songs of joy. Come! Let us worship the ruler of heaven and earth. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Creator God, Light of the World, shine in our lives today and always. As we are in your presence with hope and expectation, give us the eyes of God-fearing servants so that we may recognize the promise of our salvation. Give us the spirit

of your Son, so that we will open our ears to hear your Word which will be preached today, that we too may grow in strength and increase in wisdom. In your Holy name and way we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Galatians 4:4-7** **Luke 2:22-40**
(*Scripture readings begin on page 4*)

Message: **IT IS TIME TO BE PRAISEFUL!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:
(*please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer*)

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts of Christmas that bless us throughout the year. As we offer you our offering in gratitude and praise, we dedicate our labor, our industry, and our very lives to the building of your kingdom. May our gifts go forth to a world in need, as signs of your redemption and your hope. May we shine with your glory, that others may discover your saving love. In Christ's name and way we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay with God's peace. Be firm with his Grace. Stay trusting in His Honor. Rejoice in Him always.

(*Scripture readings begin on the next page*)

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for December 27, 2020

first reading -- Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

second reading – Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age,

having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.