



The First Sunday After Christmas
New Year's Day Worship

Prelude

Gathering— Arise; shine, for your light has come! We are called out of our darkness into light. Lift up your eyes and look around. We rejoice in the gift of light. Come, let us worship the God of light and joy and peace. We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.~

A Time of Prayer— Holy Love, you make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of hope, peace, joy, and love. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray...

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

We Hear God's Word

Psalm 148 (NRSV)

¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they
were created.
⁶ He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be
passed.
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close
to him.

Praise the LORD!

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen
upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to
you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to
you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and
Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of
the LORD.

Meditation

Be Radiant

Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come, #231

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of

remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation—The light of Christ welcomes us to this feast. How good it is to begin this new year at Christ’s table. There is a place for you here, for all who long to be filled with good things, to receive the grace of Christ. Welcome to the table.

A Prayer for Transformation— Eternal God, the dawn of a new year prompts us to reflect on our past and hope for our future. Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us commit to love and resolve to extend the grace and mercy we need from you and our neighbor. Make us new. Amen.+

Assurance of Grace— The God who counts our days knows us intimately, loves us abundantly, and abides with us relentlessly. Receive the brand new mercies of this day. Hold the love of God closely, firmly, and freely. Transformation, grace, and new life is assured this day.+

The Words of Institution— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

Blessing Our Meal—Pour your Holy Spirit upon this meal, wondrous God. May this bread and this cup be light and grace for our bodies and spirits. May it strengthen us for the new year that is before us, as we carry your light into the world. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.`

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Let us put our trust in the Living God, who is faithful. Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.+

January Benevolence—Our Church’s Wider Mission

Doxology

We Give Thanks—Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.+

Hymn

When Morning Guilds the Skies, #111

Benediction—May we remember the magnificent acts of the Holy One. May we proclaim the wondrous ways of our God. May love be our compass and mercy our guide. Go into the world as kinfolk of the Christ who trust in the faithfulness of the One who calls, who comes, and who companions with us. As we welcoming light in this unsure world, go in peace. Amen.+

Postlude

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow