

# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE DECEMBER 27, 2020

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**Preparing for Worship** – What difference does Jesus make in the world? Is he irrelevant? Did Christmas change anything or anyone? Advent is about a deep and profound longing for God's goodness and peace in the middle of a world in turmoil. It is about living with hope in Christ Return despite pain and tragedy. Epiphany is about how God is not obscure and distant, but rather is a God who is made known. And it is about how this message is not just given to one people or nation, but to all nations. Christmastide bridges the gap – between our Advent hopes and the Epiphany mission we are called to serve among the nations.

**Prelude**                    **“Good King Wenceslas”**  
Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Opening**                    **“Come On, Ring Those Bells”**

**\*Call to Worship**    *Jeremiah 3:22-25*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will be glad and rejoice in it.**

The Lord is prepared to bring a new year.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning.

**Great is your faithfulness.**

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to those who seek him.

**Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**

**Song #205**                    **“Away in a Manger”**                    CRADLE SONG

**\*The Lighting of the Candle**

**Song #178**                    **“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**                    *McGEE*

**\*Invocational Prayer**

**Songs #177**                    **“Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

**A Reading from the Old Testament**                    **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

**A Reading from the Psalter**                    **Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

**Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever - he issued a decree that will never pass away.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

**Praise the Lord.**

**A Reading from the Apostles**                    **Galatians 4:4-7**

**\*A Reading from the Holy Gospel**                    **Luke 2:21-40**

**Responsorial**                    **“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”**

**Children's Message (Children dismissed to Junior Church)**

**Invitation to the Offering, Prayer of Dedication, and Offertory**

**The Message**                    **“Let Your Servant Depart in Peace”**  
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

## RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

**\*Altar Call of Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to follow Christ in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

**Song #** “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

*\*Please stand if able*

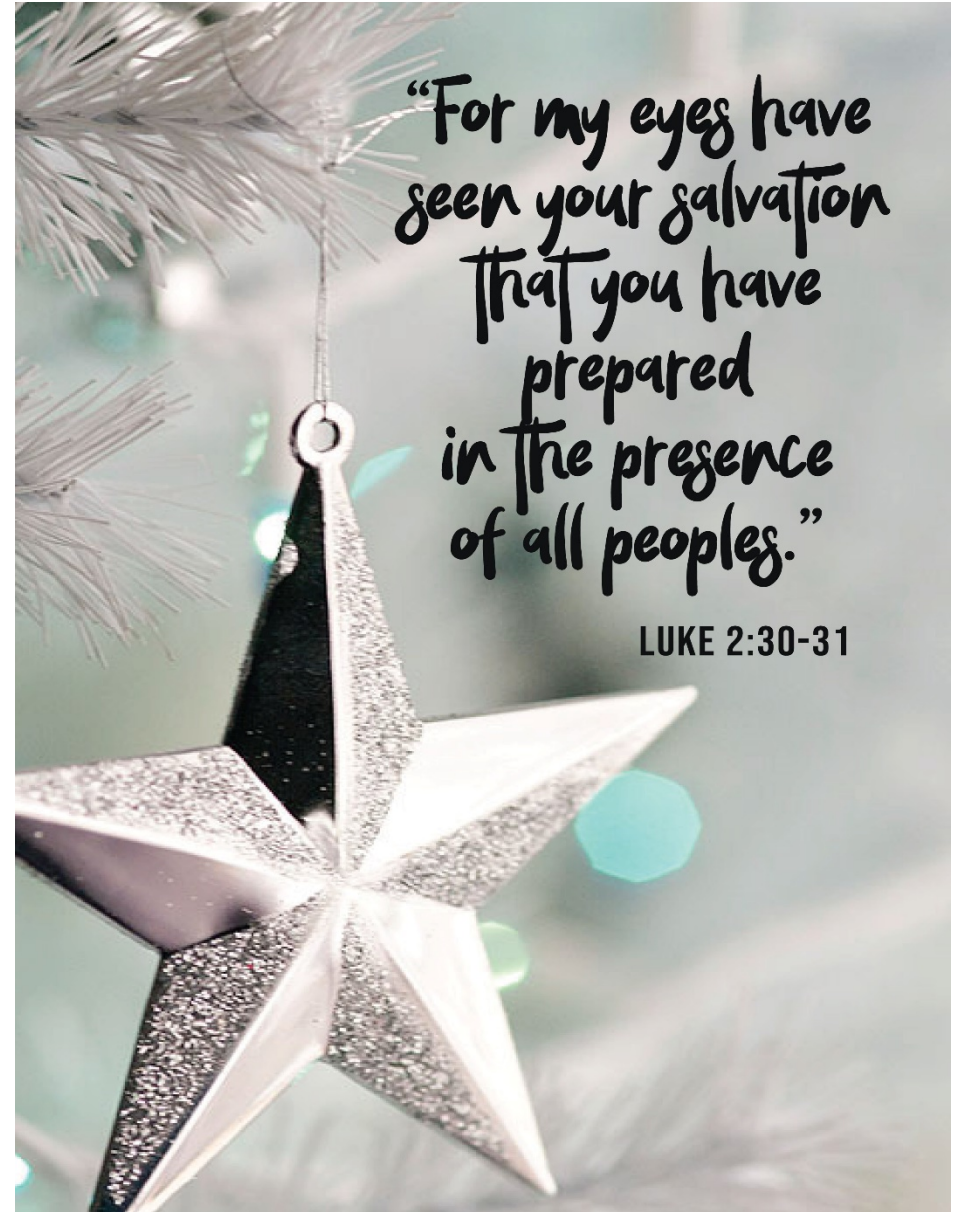
# Christmastide

**BELIEVER’S BAPTISM** – We practice “believer’s baptism,” which is the immersion of a person in water – regardless of age – who receives Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and publicly professes faith to walk the Jesus way. The Council schedules baptisms on most Sunday mornings throughout the year. If you would like to be baptized, then come to the front during the last song.



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[www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)



“For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31

## WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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