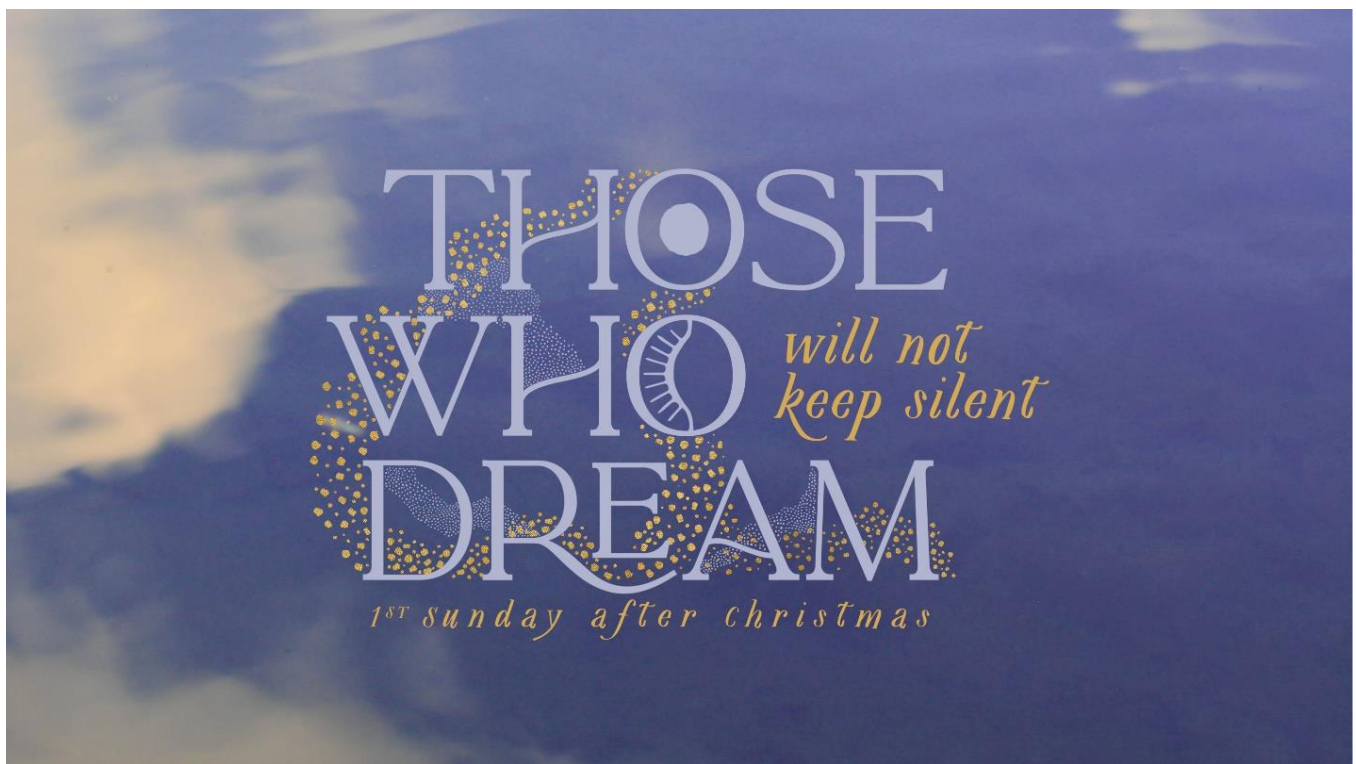




Worship Service  
Saturday, December 26, 2020



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here on the heels of Christmas, we speak of love and we speak of joy.

We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

We speak of hope and of dreams fulfilled.

We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

We speak the good news of the Saviors birth.

The world needs this good news.

We are not called to be silent.

Let us worship and listen, and then, let us speak.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

We pray... Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, help us share the good news of Jesus who came to share our humanity.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING – Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We hear and receive God's word today as we read about Simeon and Anna—two figures who could not keep silent about the dream unfolding in front of their eyes. Let us listen for God speaking to us through these ancient words.*

## **GOSPEL – Luke 2:22-40**

The gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

*Rev. Christina Garrett Klein*

### REFLECTIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*There are some dreams that we keep to ourselves, but there are others that must be spoken out loud. Anna and Simeon speak about their dreams for Jerusalem. They speak of their dreams for the Messiah. They could not keep silent. To practice speaking aloud our dreams for this world, we invite you to write three things, following these prompts:*

1. Anna and Simeon begin speaking by praising God.
  - a. Write something that you are grateful for—a piece of good news worthy of praise.
2. Anna and Simeon have dreams for a better world.
  - a. Write a dream you have for the world that we need to speak about.
3. Anna and Simeon speak and are heard, but not all people are listened to with the same equality in our world.
  - a. Think of one person or group of people that are speaking, but are not being heard. May this be a reminder that we can use our voices for and alongside others.

*As we pray together, you are invited to give voice and speak your prayers aloud or typing them into the comments or chat box.*

We pray together..

Holy Dreamer, when they saw Jesus, Anna and Simeon spoke your praise. In this time, we now lift our own prayers of gratitude and praise:

*Worshippers speak their prayers aloud, or type them into the chat.*

Holy Dreamer, Anna and Simeon had dreams for a better world. We, too, have these dreams—and we won't keep silent about them. We now offer our dreams to you:

*Worshippers speak their prayers aloud, or type them into the chat.*

Holy Dreamer, when Anna and Simeon speak, their voices are heard and what they say is received with reverence. Yet, we live in a world where not all voices are heard—instead, many are silenced. We now lift our prayers for those whose voices are silenced or muted:

*Worshippers speak their prayers aloud, or type them into the chat.*

Holy God, we lift all these prayers, written and unwritten, spoken and unspoken, to you. Hold them with care. Give them life. Breathe your grace into them and make all things new.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **COMMUNION**

*The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.  
Come meet Christ in this meal.*

**+ + + *Receive the Meal* + + +**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*We pause for prayer and reflection, and to give time to commune those gathered  
with others in the household.*

### **OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**



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**Our Mission:**

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ  
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries,  
meet with one of our pastors, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to  
call or email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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***See you next week for worship at 5pm on Saturday  
and livestream from the sanctuary at 10:00am on Sunday!  
We continue sharing in communion. Please call/email the church  
office if you need elements brought to you.***



*Thank you for worshipping with us today as we seek to be in community with one another while minimizing physical contact. As a gentle reminder, please continue to wash your hands for the recommended 20 seconds, wear a mask and create safe boundaries through physical distancing.*

*We know that God is with us and God is at work, wherever we worship. With coronavirus cases on the rise, we will continue worshipping online at this time. Please be vigilant and check your email, Facebook, etc., for additional notifications and updates in the coming weeks, and contact the church council ([council@edgebrooklutheran.org](mailto:council@edgebrooklutheran.org)) with any concerns. Stay safe and be well! God's peace to you!!*