

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I hope you are having an enjoyable and blessed Christmas season and beginnings to the new year.

The order of worship for the Second Sunday of Christmas follows below with links for music and the sermon within the service.

Announcements and the parish prayer list may be found after the service.

God's blessings of grace, joy, well-being and true peace be with you.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
5800 Long Beach Blvd.  
Brant Beach, NJ 08008

Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 3, 2021

Introduction to the Day

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.  
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. Amen.

Hymn Listen You Nations of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REiS1Oya18o>

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms: 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Sermon <https://youtu.be/pVqLqnr2zJo>

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary including all who serve in the medical field, all impacted by COVID 19 and those on our parish prayer list. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (especially). Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.  
You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (especially). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### 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.

Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI2c9yptr4U>

Sending

Benediction

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.

Announcements

In-person worship is currently paused – At the December meeting of the church council, it was decided that in-person worship would be paused due to the upsurge in COVID 19 cases. In-person worship will resume when conditions will be more conducive to worship in the sanctuary. Be assured that the remote service will continue to be sent by email and Facebook in the weeks ahead. The council will keep you informed about when we will resume in-person worship. Be safe and well.

Holy Trinity's next Book Club Meeting will be on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10AM, Zoom format. Our discussion will be on American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Contact Marty Chaffee at [rchaffee@juno.com](mailto:rchaffee@juno.com) with questions.

A study on Women of the Bible - meets next on Tuesday, January 12th at 10AM Zoom format. Contact Kathy Leifeste if interested.

We are praying for the following:

Dawne      Dick      Mike and Janet      Bobby

|          |            |          |           |
|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| John Jr. | Carol      | Alex S.  | Deb       |
| Tim      | Gladys T.  | Michelle | Connie S. |
| Michelle | Mary Ellen | Judi     | Jim H.    |
| Cody     | Carol L.   | John     |           |
| Katie    | Bruce      | Kelli    |           |