

Sunday 31st December, 2023 11.00 am

The First Sunday after Christmas

Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.

Assistant Minister: Mrs. Julie Hearty, B.D.

Musical Director: Mr. Alan A. Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.

Welcome & Intimations

Call to Worship

Hymn 320 Joy to the world, the Lord is come

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition HymnQuest ID: 56558

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

Hymn 329 O little Love, who comes again

- 1 O little Love, who comes again,
the Word made flesh to make God plain,
O Child who shines, the Jesus light,
disarm the world, this Christmas night !
- 2 No heart so hard it may not move,
no hate resist your open love ;
defenceless in our hands you come
to Herod's power, to Mary's home.
- 3 As all the wise look for your star,
so I must follow where you are —
as you are light so must I be,
as you are peace, be peace in me.

Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)(alt.) Reproduced from CH4 CD-ROM edition, number 329
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Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Hymn 104 The Lord of heaven confess (vv.1,3,5)

Psalm 148

- 1 The Lord of heaven confess;
On high his glory raise:
Him let all angels bless,
Him all his armies praise.
Him glorify
Sun, moon, and stars;
Ye higher spheres,
And cloudy sky.

3 Praise God from earth below,
Ye dragons, and ye deeps:
Fire, hail, clouds, wind, and snow,
Whom in command he keeps.
Praise ye his name,
Hills great and small,
Trees low and tall,
Beasts wild and tame.

5 O let God's name be praised
Above both earth and sky;
For he his saints hath raised,
And set their horn on high;
Even those that be
Of Israel's race,
Near to his grace.
The Lord praise ye.

verse 1 George Wither (1588-1667), verses 2 - 4 Isaac Watts (1674-1748) after *Psalm 148*, 1-5, 11, 13-14
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St. Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayer of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.**

Thy will be done in 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, for
ever. Amen.**

Hymn 685 For everyone born, a place at the table

- 1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.
*And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*
- 2 For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.
- 3 For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.
- 4 For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.
- 5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

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Benediction

Choral Amen (3-fold)