

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
THE SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE

Noël X

Louis-Claude Daquin

WELCOME / NOTES ON THE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...Creating and Revealing God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our hurts and joys, lost and gain and all of our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

10 I will joyfully exult in YHWH,
who is the joy of my soul!
My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
the way a bridegroom puts on a turban
and a bride bedecks herself with jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden brings its seeds to blossom,
so Exalted YHWH makes justice sprout,
and praise spring up before all nations.

62:1 For Zion's sake, I will not be silent;
for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest —
not until her integrity shines like the dawn,
her deliverance like a flaming torch.

2 The nations will see your vindication,
and the rulers your splendor;
you will have a new name
that YHWH's mouth will bestow.

3 You will be a garland of beauty in YHWH's hands,
a solemn crown worn by your God.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O God

22 When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. 23 For it is written in the Law of our God, "every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." 24 They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God. 25 Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. he was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. 26 She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the messiah of God. 27 Prompted by her, Simeon came to the temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, 28 He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 "Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised;

30 Because my eyes have seen the salvation

31 Which you have prepared for all the peoples to see —

32 A light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

33 As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said,

34 Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the

downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, 35 so that the secret

thoughts of many will be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well." 36 There was a

woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet.

She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, 37 and then as a widow to the age of

eighty-four. She never left the temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. 38

Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who

anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem. 39 When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. 40 He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 292

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
 Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together in the love of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(Tita)

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church, O God, that we may all unite in prayer as well as in practical help for those who are suffering for all reasons and seeking you. We pray for courage, wisdom and guidance so that we do not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel and being bearers of hope in this challenging and uncertain time. Grant our churches and communities strength and resilience as they minister among the most vulnerable among us and in every thing they do as reflections of your love. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us to the power of the Prince of peace who brings justice here on earth. We pray for the leaders of our nation that in the midst of this global pandemic they may work together for the common good, bringing down any barriers that divide us. Help them to act swiftly to cure and heal, for restoration and hope. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Grant peace and justice to nations and cities where there are conflicts, war or violence. Give us courage to hold accountable leaders of nations as they listen to the cries of the voiceless and protect the dignity of all people. We continue to pray for the Oromo people in Ethiopia and around the world; and others we name now... God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring healing and restoration for those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those who are traveling and for those in any need (especially...); Move us to work from charity to justice as we serve and advocate for those who are oppressed, hungry, and victims of violence. Teach us to show radical hospitality and compassion to all no matter who they are. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Continue to inspire us to work for racial justice. Keep our heart burning to do your will until your love and mercy overcome and eliminates all inequalities and inequities. Make this synod a community of reconciliation that loves one another and our neighbors. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In life and in death, we are yours. We thank you for our ancestors in faith who have taught us to lament and to praise; remembering John, Apostle and Evangelist, whom we commemorate today, and those dear to us whom we name now....God of mercy, **receive our prayer**

We commend these prayers to you, O God; we entrust to the Spirit those prayers that we cannot yet pray, trusting that the Spirit does for us, with sighs too deep for words. For all that you know that we hold, we pray in Jesus's name. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

please pray in the language of your heart

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE**OFFERTORY****OFFERTORY MUSIC**

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

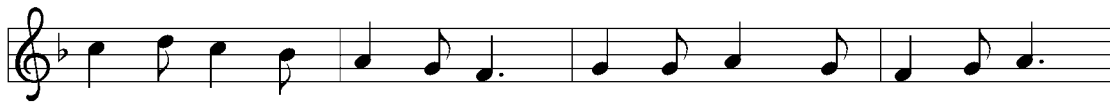
HELMUT WALCHA

BLESSING

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

IN DULCI JUBILO, BWV 729
 GOD REST YE MERRY CHRISTIANS ALL

J. S. BACH
 ALFRED V. FEDAK

WORSHIP LEADERS

LITURGIST	PASTOR TITA C. VALERIANO
PREACHER	BISHOP MARK W. HOLMERUD
LECTORS	DEACON MARGY SCHMITT-AJER DIANA BARRIOS
PRAYERS	DEBBIE COOK KATRINA FINLEY LAURIE GAUMER KATHYE HAMM RACHEL LINE PASTOR BILL WONG
PEACE/OFFERTORY	GAIL S. KIYOMURA

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DR. TIM ZERLANG, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

ED CHITTY, SACRISTAN

ANDREW SELLACH, CAMERA OPERATOR

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