



Welcome to worship!

Thank you to those who shared their time and talents this morning:

Lector: Sandy Bendickson

Greeters/Ushers:

Communion Assistants: Sandy Bendickson

Altar: Marcia Holst, Esther Gullixson

Sound/Video: Heath Oeltjen, Cheryl Luettinger, Julie Deschneau, Randy Zanto

Acolyte:

**A special thank you to Pastor Nancy Dreier
for leading our worship service this morning!**

Prelude

I Saw Three Ships; Good Christian Friends, Rejoice; The First Noel
arr. by John Carter

Welcome / Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn

The First Noel

#300

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#288

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

L: Word of God. Word of life.

P: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

read responsively

L: The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

C: Clouds and darkness surround the Lord, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

L: Fire goes before the Lord, burning up enemies on every side.

C: Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

L: The mountains ^l melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

C: The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord, and all the peoples ^l see your glory.

L: Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.

C: Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord.

L: For you are the Lord, most high over ^l all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

C: You who love the Lord, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

L: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

C: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

L: Word of God. Word of life.

P: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

#270 v. 1

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Nancy Dreier

The Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke

Hymn of the Day

What Child is This

#296

Prayers of Intercession

L: Hear us O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

The Peace

Offering/Offertory

He Is Born, the Devine Christ Child

arr. by Penny Rodriguez

Offering Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

#294 vs. 3

Great Thanksgiving

p. 152

Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 153

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

p. 154

Communion

All people of any age (including guests and visitors) are welcome to receive this Sacrament, the body and blood of Jesus. As the ushers direct you forward, simply hold out your hands to receive. If you would rather (or prefer having your child) receive a blessing, come forward without holding out your hands for the bread.

Lamb of God

p. 154

Distribution

Communion Blessing

Benediction

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#290

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Go Tell It on the Mountain

arr. by Bruce Greer