

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

Pastor John Stiles ~ Reader: Ardelle O

Communion: Ardelle & John O, Eric O



PRELUDE *Spirit Alive*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

† forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

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.

HYMN *'Shine Jesus, Shine'*

Spirit Alive

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Children may be dismissed for Sunday School after the message.*

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

The word of the Lord. ~ **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING *Ephesians 1:3-14*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In

him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord. ~ **Thanks be to God**

HYMN *'Angels We Have Heard on High'*

ELW 289

GOSPEL *John 1:[1-9] 10-18 ~ **Glory to you, O Lord***

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of our Lord. ~ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE *Pastor John Stiles*

COMMUNION HYMNS: *'It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282

'Silent Night, Holy Night'

ELW 281

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *'Go Tell It on the Mountain'*

ELW 290

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ORLC

Website: www.orlpc.com ~ Phone: 320-629-2985 ~ Office Email: orlcoffice@gmail.com

Sunday (5th)

8am Prayer
9am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10am Coffee & Fellowship
10am Adult Bible Study
5pm Club 456

Monday

9am Quilting
5:30pm COJ Board Meeting
7:30pm AA

Wednesday

6:30am Men's Breakfast
4:45pm Finance
5:30pm Executive
3pm Kids of the Kingdom
6/6:30pm Meal/Confirmation
7pm Choir
7:30pm SH Youth Group
7:30pm Wednesday Night Worship

Thursday

8am Sonrisers
1pm Grief Group
7pm Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR: Practice begins again this Wednesday at 7pm in the music room. Everyone welcome!

MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE: Sunday, January 19 at 9:00 AM
A morning of music & sharing of testimonies! Brunch for all served after worship.

COOKBOOK COOKOUT: Ladies Event Sunday, January 26th from 11:30-1:30.
Pick a recipe from a Church cookbook, make the recipe....so substitutions allowed, bring the dish to pass along with the recipe on Sunday the 26th. Feel free to invite family and friends for what we hope will be a delicious afternoon of fellowship!

INTERN GIVING: Envelopes are now available for any giving going towards the Internship this year. Please label 'Intern' in the memo of the check.

GIVING ENVELOPES: Your 2025 giving envelopes are here! They can be found in a basket in the narthex. Thank you for your yearly contributions that help up complete our mission!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of more people for Sunday worship assistant positions: Readers, Communion assistants, Live streaming and camera work in assisting the person doing the livestreaming. If you are interested in assisting please connect with Christy Koch or Diane Lombard. Thank you!

PARKING LOT FUNRAISER: If it so moves you please consider making a donation (mark donations as designated for the parking lot fund). ALL contributions of ANY amount are helpful! Thank you to all those who have made generous donations thus far.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG: For easy drop off we have placed 3 white collection boxes around the Church. Inside: Sanctuary doors and in the hallway outside the kitchen. Outside: Backdoor.

FLOWER/RADIO SIGN-UP: 2025 sheets are up to start the year. Your generosity in beautifying the altar space and helping to spread the word to all is greatly appreciated!

ALTAR FLOWERS: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary & Kevin Anderson
Note: When taking your flowers please do so by taking the vase around to the back side of the altar space. Remove the flowers from the plastic insert & place them in the bags we have there for your convenience.

RADIO SPONSOR: Mary & Kevin Anderson

GREEN TIP: January 5

It's time once again for New Year's resolutions. Quite a noble time, really, when we look ahead to ways we can improve ourselves. Consider embracing a resolution related to the environment this year. As Pope Francis wrote, "We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread" (*Laudato Si'*, 212). So pick something, large or small, that will be manageable but a good challenge for you or your family to care for creation this year.

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HEALING PRAYER TEAM *January 5*

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

As we enter into a New Year, The Healing Prayer Team would like to offer prayers to help "jump start" your journey into 2025. Folks often look at the New Year as a fresh start, a new beginning, and yes, resolutions. The grand news, Jesus knows us, refreshes us, loves us, and makes us new, each and every moment of each and every day, calling us, by name, to put our trust and hope, into Him. Blessings as you enter into the New Year.

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.
In Jesus name. Amen.
- Author Unknown

ORLC PRAYER LIST: Prayer is powerful & a way to support those seeking comfort and guidance. The list below are those who need your prayers.

TO PRAY FOR:

Marilyn S, Carl A, Carsen (grandson of Steve and Cindy S), Dave B, Joan R, Eric J (son of Sherwood & Marietta J), Carolyn T, Jerry S, Tonia J, Bill M (son of Ron & Donna P)
Always keep in prayer--- our military, first responders, front line workers, for all who work for peace and justice on behalf of 'the least of these' and for all those we hold in prayer in the quiet of our hearts.