

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THOSE
WHO *will not*
keep silent
DREAM
1st sunday after christmas

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here on the heels of Christmas, we speak of love.

All: We speak of joy. We speak of candle light and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

All: Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

SONG # 136 *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

Refrain:

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.*** (Refrain)

***The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth.*** (Refrain)

***Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.*** (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Psalmist said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of today and tomorrow, we know that your fingerprints are all over this world. And we know that those who dream cannot keep silent. And we long to dream. So today we pray...Give us eyes to see you. Give us courage to trust you. Give us grace to forgive ourselves and forgive others as you have forgiven us. And give us lips to speak of you in our midst. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News, God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us.
Let us take hold of this forgiveness, and live our lives in the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought

in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Awe and Praise

Rev. Lance Perry

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE in telling the story. The story of a loving and merciful God, who will not let God’s people go. The story of a baby who grew up and changed the world; the story of our faith. WE BELIEVE in speaking up for our neighbors, for the oppressed, for the overlooked and marginalized. WE BELIEVE in speaking out against violence, greed, abuse, fear, scarcity mindset, and bigotry. WE BELIEVE in passing the mic so that we are not the only ones speaking, so that we can lift up the voices of those around us, so that we too might listen and learn. WE BELIEVE in the good news of the gospel. WE BELIEVE that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves. WE BELIEVE that those who dream cannot keep silent, that Holy God speaks to us, speaks through us, amen.

SONG # 124

Still, Still, Still

***Still, still, still,
he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still,
he sleeps this night so chill.***

***Sleep, sleep, sleep,
he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,
sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
he lies in slumber deep.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal God, we bow before the mystery of your incarnation. You have chosen weakness to confound the strong and poverty to send the rich empty away.

We remember the millions in our world today who are hungry, who receive no hospitality— all with whom your Son has become one by being born in a manger.

(Silence)

Merciful God, we call upon you for all who have fled their homes in the darkness of night. We remember the millions in our world who have been made refugees, who have sought asylum in lands not their own, who are displaced, homeless, landless, or lost— all whose experience you have made your own in the life of your Son.

(Silence)

Gracious God, you placed yourself in the care of Mary and Joseph to show to the world your will to save. Give us grace to follow their example: to become instruments of your grace, servants of your will, and channels of your love. May it happen to us as you have willed.

(Silence)

O God of peace, you fill our hearts with hope at every Christmastide, for we remember again that this is the world you have loved. On the cusp of a new year, may your hope, peace, joy and love fill our hearts and lives. We lift up this prayer and continue praying in the manner Jesus taught...

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 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, forever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG # 110

Love Has Come

***Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.***

***Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.***

***Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!***

BENEDICTION

Let us go now to live the story, to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas, to share the Love of the season with the world, to be agents of Peace in times of trouble, to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Thank you to Mona Dowell, Dave Smith, and Eddie Adams for providing the music and technical support for our worship video.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

Roberta Dibble as she recovers from COVID-19

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay
Charolette Brown
Dan Grassi
Inez Ruchte
Donna Nichols

Rachel Williams
Libby Morton
Aleta Wheeler
Jeane Nagel
Andrew Scharfe

Sandra Richbourg
Dick Grassi
Barbara Settlemyre
Joe Moody
Dave Smith

We continue to pray for these family and friends of Saint Giles members:

Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet
Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Ev
Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, sister Eloise Rohner,
& niece Eloise Lindsay
Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces Colleen, & Sourour Dehnadi, brother Ken, & friend
Paul Hutter & family
Dave & Rita Hart's friend Terry, and neighbors Sarah and Wayne
Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
Scott Vollmer's mother, Lois
Nathan Whittle's aunt Pauline and her son
Carol Pope's sister, Kathy; brother, David; sister-in-law, Kacy

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.