



First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Christmas Bells"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign that Christ has come and Christ will come again. As the light pushes back darkness let us walk with, learn from, and worship Jesus Christ.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Praise the Lord from the heavens and the heights above.

All: Praise the Lord all his angels and his heavenly hosts.

Liturgist: Praise the Lord both sun and moon and all the shining stars.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth.

Liturgist: Lightening and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that blow, mountains and hills, trees and bushes, wild animals that roam, kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all rulers, young men and maidens, old men and children –

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Liturgist: For he has raised up for his people a Savior.

All: Praise the Lord.

Psalm 148 adapted

* **All Singing: 92 "Joy to the World"**

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 610 “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”**

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: 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.

All: 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. *Isaiah 61:10-11*

Liturgist: In that confidence we confess our sin and brokenness.

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

All: And because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Liturgist: So, you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. *Galatians 4:4-7 adapted*

All Singing: 95 “What Child is This?”

Liturgist: I John 4:7-12

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

* **All Singing: 88 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**
Singing verses 1 and 4

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Inconsolable”

* **All Singing: 108 “Blest Are the Innocents”**
Soloist singing verses 1 and 2, all singing 3 and 4

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Bethshan Association

OFFERTORY “Pastorale” from *The Messiah*

George Frederick Handel

* **All Singing: 81 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**
Singing verse 5

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending

* BENEDICTION

* **All Singing: 82 “Angels We have Heard on High”**

Postlude: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. John Carter

Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist:

Lynn Hollender

Acolyte:

TBD

Prelude Pianist:

Jean Korthals

Liturgist:

Jim Achterhof

Soloist:

Lori Evenhouse

Prayer:

Gary R. Medema

Saxophone:

Cody Decker

Minister:

Roger Nelson

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)

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5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452
www.hope-crc.org