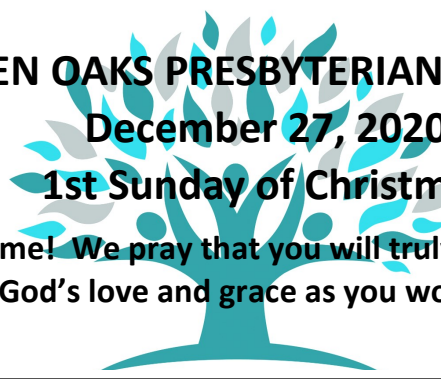


SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 27, 2020

1st Sunday of Christmas

Welcome! We pray that you will truly experience God's love and grace as you worship!



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Zoom Worshipers: Once worship begins, please do not unmute yourselves. Zoom is very sensitive to sounds coming from our computers and to provide for the most fluid and clear worship experience for everyone, this is a small thing you can do to celebrate this worship opportunity!

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude: Noel XII

Daquin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jana Creighton

MOMENT OF RECOGNITION

Rev. Dan Loffredo

OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Jana Creighton

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS (inspired by Luke 1:46-55)

One: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

All: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.

One: The darkness that enveloped the people,

All: Has been pierced by the Light.

One: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

All: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving. Let us worship the Lord in praise!

Congregational Carol:

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:**

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dan Loffredo

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas "high." So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don't want that "high" to be over. We want to feel the "peace on earth" feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Behold! God has given God's Son that we might have life--new, vital, sparkling. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart this day and know that God is with you always. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Luke 2:22-40

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

²² And 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

²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the
Lord")

²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves,
or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout,
waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the L
ord's Christ.

²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him
according to the custom of the Law,

²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and s
aid to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in
Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be
revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was
advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,

³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple,
worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were w
aiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into
Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

MESSAGE

Redemption and Rest

Rev. Jana Creighton

OFFERING

Text Sevenoaks to 73256 or use the SOPC website with this link:

<https://onrealm.org/SevenOaksPresby/-/give/now>

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Elder Richard Brinkley

SPECIAL MUSIC

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Virtual Choir

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay,
Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy**

**Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tempest Adest Floridum

arr. John Stainer

Music Notes: The virtual choir's arrangement of Go, Tell It on a Mountain, invites us all to do what the shepherds did, and spread the great good news of Jesus' birth. The postlude is a setting of a 16th century tune best known today as *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*. The closing verse is: "*Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger. He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger. Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story. Praise His name in all the earth. Hail the King of Glory!*"

In our continued prayers...

Edith Blanchett	Nan Foster	Ed Keelen	Al Charles
Linda Floyd	Scott Wilhide	Joe Gause	SOPC Covid Task Force
Daniel and Elizabeth Turk		Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz	
Banks Robinson	Loretta (Hadessah) Demko		



Please join us on Wednesdays at Noon via Zoom for our Prayer Meeting.

Year End Contributions: Charitable contributions to SOPC must be received in the church office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2020, in order for them to be included on the 2020 Giving Statement, which can be used for verification for the IRS. If the contribution is mailed, it must be postmarked by 12/31/2020. Checks, cash or other property received after 12/31/2020, unless postmarked by that date, will be included in 2021 income and noted on the Contributor's 2021 giving statement. Please contact Sharon Staton with questions.



Epiphany Star Words: Epiphany falls on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. The wise men who traveled great distances to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child were responding to the gift first given to them. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. As we commemorate the arrival of the wise men and remember their offerings, we delight in this paper reminder (A Star Word) that symbolizes God's generosity in our lives.

Why would such a simple gift take on such deep meaning? What is it about receiving a word on a piece of paper that touches people? Especially this year, we are all yearning for tangible, clear signs of God's presence. Seven Oaks is filled with compassionate people who spend hours baking for sales, cooking meals for shut-ins, writing cards to the sick, providing transportation to the homebound, calling on people in hospitals and nursing homes, praying for those in need, stretching the church budget by giving what they can, and hosting church suppers. Our congregation is good at being busy and "doing" for God. This Epiphany Sunday celebration, people are offered the opportunity to "be still" in the presence of God and to receive God's gifts. This is not because we have done anything to merit such attention, but simply because of God's abundant generosity.

This Epiphany Sunday celebration you have a choice in how you will receive your star word. Please go online to this website to receive a digital random Star word:

<http://www.wordoftheyear.me/?fbclid=IwAR2F3-D3705P0FAbIDEHwujdw6APRsNcP7MjxtKdWLRaPlxo7ami8fUlh84>

Or stop by the office to choose your own from a wide selection of words. Those receiving mailings in the mail will be randomly chosen a word and mailed accordingly.

As you reflect on last years word, we want to hear from you. What was your word and what did it mean to you during 2020? Did it take on new meaning? Did God speak to you through this word in particular? You are encouraged to write us a story and mail it (or email) it to the office. We want to know what God is doing in our midst, especially how God has spoken during the reality of the pandemic around us. Epiphany Blessings to you. Pastor Jana.

This Week at SOPC

Sunday

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/508111743?](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUUnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

[pwd=WUUnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUUnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

Meeting ID: 508 111 743 Password: 046739

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 508111743 #

Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

[pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

Meeting ID: 743 754 044 Password: 072863

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 743754044 #

Children's Check-In and Sunday School at 1:30 p.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dKVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

[pwd=dKVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dKVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

Meeting ID: 845 7332 8620 Password: 237447

Wednesday

Lunch & Prayer: Wednesday at Noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

[pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

Meeting ID: 897 0511 3395 Password: 300498

By Phone: 1(301)715-8592 89705113395#

Friday

Lanterns: Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

[pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

Meeting ID: 813 1656 1956 Passcode: 168424