



Festival of Lights, John August Swanson 2000

Second Sunday After Christmas
January 4, 2026

Reflections

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:12-14

“Behold, I will bring them from the north country
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.”

“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 keeps his 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 be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.
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 feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the Lord.”

Jeremiah 31:8, 10-14

Order of Worship

GATHERING

O Lord, You Are My Light

O Lord, you are my light
And my salvation
I will sing
And make melody to you Lord

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“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 keeps
his 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 be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

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 feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord.”

Jeremiah 31:10-14

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Arise, shine, for your light has come
And the glory of God is on you.
Arise, see when the earth grows dark
That the Lord will arise upon you,
That the Lord will arise upon you.

Nations will come to your light;
Lift up your eyes and see.
We'll gather together and come to you
And your love will be all that we know.
Yes, your love will be all that we know.

Rise up to the welcoming gates
For the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not for the Lord brings peace
And redemption to all who believe,
And redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine cause you'll
Be all the light we need,
And violence will end all the wars
That we wage will cease.
We will glorify your name,
We will glorify your name.

PRAISE SONG

Rising Sun

Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Your Name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

CONFESION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESION

God of light and mercy, You have come to dwell among us, yet we confess that we do not always receive you. We turn from your truth, resist your grace, and settle for shadows when you offer us life. Forgive us for our closed hearts and distracted lives. Renew us by your Spirit, that we may live as children of light, shaped by your love and faithful to your call. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14, 16-17

RENEWAL SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!

Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“God as He Gathers”

Ben Shaw

³ 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, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shade of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till Thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine.

All creation join the chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

Joy to the world; the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing;
And heav'n and nature sing; and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth; the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found; far as — far as the curse is found!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love; and wonders of His love!

BENEDICTION

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

Backpack Packing Party - Jan. 11, 3:15pm at Pavillion. Pack food for children at Speas.

CHURCH LIFE

Children's Ministry Assistant - Position opening. See Looking Up for details.

Winter Break - Dec. 14-Jan 4: 9am and 10:45am Worship; 10:15am Hope Cafe.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Jan. 7, 5:30-7pm. Free dinner at Hope. All welcome!

Prayer Service - Jan. 7, 7pm

Mahjong Women's Event - Jan. 24, 2-5pm. Register before Jan. 20!

Praying Life Seminar - Jan. 23-24. Registration open. See Looking Up.

Discovering Hope - Friday, Jan. 23, 7:30pm-9pm; Sundays, Jan. 25 - Feb. 22, 10am

Quito Missions Trip - Info packets in back of sanctuary and registration open.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

PJ Popcorn Party - Jan. 23, 6-8pm. 2nd-5th graders welcome! Registration open.

MS Great Wolf Lodge - Feb. 13-14. Registration open.

Kids Connection - January Verse - I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 30TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 12/31	Difference
Income	\$1,373,287	\$1,482,783	-\$109,496
Expense	\$1,395,003	\$1,482,783	-\$87,780
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$21,716	\$0	-\$21,716

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,243,302	\$3,685,078