



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
January 2, 2022 • 2nd Sunday of Christmastide

**Welcome, Check-In, & Announcements**

<b>Prelude</b>	J.S. Bach	Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll
<b>Visual Call-to-Worship</b>	<i>Behold!</i>	The Work of The People

**Responsive Call-to-Worship**

Servant: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

**People: We understand that Christ was creative, speaking within all the universe.**

Servant: John says that in Christ was life, life that was light which could not be overcome.

**People: John's image portrays impossible possibility – that good shall not be overwhelmed by evil.**

Servant: The human being who was preexistent Word and true light was also rejected by the world and ill-received by his own neighbors.

**People: We worship the Son of God and the man of Nazareth – Jesus, who gives us power to become children of God.**

**Hymn**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#71

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast. Let us all in thee inherit, let us find  
the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be. End of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they  
temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise  
thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly  
restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our  
crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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**Invocation**

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are a God of faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

**The Written Word**

Psalm 147: 12–20

The Message

Jerusalem, worship God! Zion, praise your God! God made your city secure, blessed your children among you... keeps the peace at your borders, puts the best bread on your tables. Launches promises earthward how swift and sure they come! God spreads snow like a white fleece, scatters frost like ashes, broadcasts hail like birdseed—who can survive God's winter? Then, like that, God gives the command and it all melts; breathes on winter—suddenly it's spring! God speaks the same way to Jacob, speaks words that work to Israel. You see, God never did this to the other nations; they never heard such commands. Hallelujah!

**Ministry Moment**

Slideshow

**Joy-Filled Giving**

Tithes and Offerings

**Song**

*Canticle of the Turning*

Darrell Born

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great;  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn;  
So from east to west shall my name be blest, could the world be about to turn?

My hearts shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the work is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, your work great things in me;  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,  
you will show Your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

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**Song** (continued)

*Canticle of the Turning*

Darrell Born

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not stone will be left on the stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing Grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

**ENTERING GOD'S STORY**

**The Written Word**

Ephesians 1: 1–14

NRSV

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

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**The Spoken Word**

*It's a God Thing*

Rev. Mark Rambo

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY**

**Hymn**

*10,000 Reasons*

David Nash

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship God's Holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name  
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship God's Holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name  
You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger; Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing; ten-thousand reasons for my heart to find.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship God's Holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name  
And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending: Ten-thousand years and then forevermore!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship God's Holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name;  
I'll worship Your holy name. Yes, I'll worship Your holy name.

**Prayers of the People**

O God, whose love blesses and unites us in this place and time, we come before you with hearts gladdened by this holy season, with its lights, colors and message of peace and good will to all. In the birth of Jesus, you have given our weary and struggling world reason to rejoice. In the cry of an infant, you have given hope to all who cry out. By the light of a star, you have helped us find our way, again. Create in us, O God, hearts devoted to shaping your Kingdom and bless especially those for whom such a world seems only a distant dream – the poor, the imprisoned, the ill, the lonely, the despised. Open our hearts to the news of angels and the wonder of shepherds that these days may renew us for the days to come in 2022. Give us, grant us, for the sake of Christ's ministry, hearts that may discern how to make meaningful the gospel we cherish. Grant that those whose lives we touch may hear in our words and see in our lives, our actions that you are merciful, gracious, abounding in steadfast love!

On this first Sunday of 2022, we remember those within our community who are in need and those who have been in our prayers – Jean Heidal, Marge Hunter, Merletta Roberts, Pastor Sam Hochstatter, Ken Lewis, Rex Comstock, Wayne Hallmeyer, JoAnne and Roy Schmidt, Troyce Warner, Naomi Dawes, Don Ice, Sandy and Patti Lehman, Newland Waterhouse, Sandy Grebbs, Joanna Miller, Chrystal Cooper, Robin Moorhead, and the family of Gary Rogers. Hear the prayers of your people, O God. Amen.

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**Hymn**

*God of the Ages*

#51

God of the ages, History's Maker, planning our pathway, holding us fast,  
Shaping in mercy, all that concerns us; O God we praise You, Lord of the past.  
God of this morning, gladly Your children, worship before You, trustingly bow;  
Teach us to know You, always among us, quietly Sov'reign, Lord of our now.  
God of tomorrow, Strong Overcomer, Powers of darkness own Your command;  
What then can harm us? We are Your people, now and forever, kept by Your hand.  
Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning, Lord of the future, help us, we pray;  
Teach us to trust You, Love and obey You, crown You each moment, Lord of today.

**Weekly Challenge**

**Postlude**

J.S. Bach

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

**Benediction**

*Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently*