



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

January 3, 2021

Prelude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Welcome and Announcements

Sign-in, please

Call to Worship

Leader: God calls us now in this Christmas season to become new,

People: To make room for our own nativity, even where there is no room at the inn.

Leader: Where we are busy–

People: Peace

Leader: Where we are lost–

People: Salvation

Leader: Where we are sad–

People: Joy

Leader: Where we are bitter–

People: Love

Leader: Let this hour be a time to hope for all these gifts of God. Amen

Hymn

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing, Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Loud praise to Christ our King! Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before God's throne rejoice;

Praise is God's gracious choice, Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend; To us He'll condescend;

Christ's love shall never end; Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore, God's goodness we'll adore,

Singing for evermore, Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

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Invocation

Great and loving God, we who come to worship are also persons who sometimes feel that you have abandoned us or left us to fend for ourselves. We've even been reminding ourselves of your presence come-to-earth in this Christmas season, but during the ravages of this time it's easy to suspect your absence. Encourage us, O God, when we doubt your promise to be with us always. In our worship, grant us the gifts of discernment and hope. Enable us to recognize your workings in the commonplace and the everyday. Open us to faith and help us to perceive not only what is, but also what, by your grace, might be.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Moment for Mission

The Written Word

Ephesians 1:3-14 • The Message

Debe Anderson

3-6 How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

7-10 Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

11-12 It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

13-14 It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

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Prayers of the People

Kat Stoker

Hymn

There's a Song in the Air!

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!
There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
See the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!
We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,
And we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,
and we greet in the cradle our savior and king.

The Written Word

John 1: 1-18 • The Message

Debe Anderson

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word.
The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!— came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.
There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light.
He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light;
he was there to show the way to the Light.
The Life-Light was the real thing:
Every person entering Life he brings into Light.
He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice.
He came to his own people, but they didn't want him.
But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said,
He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.
These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.
The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out, true from start to finish

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Spoken Word

Christmas: 2 B Continued

Pastor Dave Roberts

Hymn

I Am the Light of the World!

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the magi and the shepherds have found their way home,

The work of Christmas is begun:

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,

To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,

To feel the earth below, the sky above!

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,

To rebuild the nations with strength and good will,

To see God's children ev'rywhere!

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to ev'ry task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,

To make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colors of the earth!

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

The Table of the Lord

The Bread & The Cup

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Hymn

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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

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, wonders of His love!

Invitation for the Week

Postlude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Benediction

Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently