



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
December 26, 2021 • 1st Sunday of Christmastide

The Work of the People

We are Bethlehem

Alana Levandoski

Welcome, Check-In, & Announcements

Prelude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Visual Call-to-Worship

*Rejoice*

The Work of The People

Responsive Call-to-Worship

Servant: Christ is born!

**People: Christ is born!**

Servant: Because of this birth, life is full of promise for you and for me.  
Life is full of promise for our community.

**People: We celebrate today the presence of God's promise in our midst.**

Servant: The promise of a small child coming into a crowded, hurting world, and growing to be a liberator.

**People: It's the promise of you and me, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make a new presence in our world.**

Hymn

*Joy to the World!*

#194, v. 1, 2, 4

Joy to the world, the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n 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 make the nations prove.  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

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**Invocation**

Amazing God, you have confounded the wisdom of this world by coming to us in the form of a human baby, frail and vulnerable. Help us to comprehend the great love with which you open yourself to our world, that we in turn may risk to open ourselves in love toward all your children, and that we may find the source of our lives in your child, Jesus. Amen.

**The Written Word**

Psalm 148

NRSV

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights! Praise, all angels; praise, all God's host! Praise, sun and moon; praise, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created. Established them forever and ever; fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven. For God has raised up a horn for the people, praise for all God's faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God. Praise the Lord!

**Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#13, v. 1, 2, 3

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flower's 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 heav'n 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.

**Giving in Joy**

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering

RMMO

**Christmastide Doxology**

Praise God the Source of life and birth  
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.  
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

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**The Written Word**

Colossians 3:12–17

The Message

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ – the Message – have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God every step of the way.

**Hymn**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

#220 v. 1, 5

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.  
Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Peals through the earth and skies.  
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

**ENTERING GOD'S STORY**

**The Written Word**

Matthew 2: 1–12

NRSV

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

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**The Written Word** (continued)

Matthew 2: 1–12

NRSV

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**The Spoken Word**

*Late to The Party*

Rev. Mark Rambo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

**Ministry Moment**

Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge

Slideshow

**Prayers of the People**

Gracious God, we pray this day for all who have come with us to Bethlehem. We pray for those who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds, that they may hear and receive good news. We pray for those who are wandering and searching like the magi, that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens. We pray for those who are busy, hurried, preoccupied like the innkeeper, that they may know the peace that comes from a genuine act of hospitality. We pray for those like Herod who have power, that they may use it with good will. We pray for ourselves – we who each need comfort and peace, even joy, in this starlit season and all the days of our lives. Amen.

**Hymn**

*Go Tell it on The Mountain*

#216

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light!

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Go tell it on the mountain, over hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

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**Weekly Challenge**

**Postlude**

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

**Benediction**

*Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently*