

Order of Service for the 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Prelude "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" arr. Pierre La Plante

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come and worship with the joy of Christmas, for Christ is born!

We come and worship with the hope of Christmas, for Christ is born!

Because of this birth, life is full of promise for us.

Life is full of promise for our community, and for all of creation.

We celebrate the presence of God's promise in our midst.

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

It is the promise of all of us, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make this presence known wherever we go.

Hymn No. 120 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (pew bible pg. 1591)

Prayer of Transformation and New Growth

O God, we come before you as a people gathered to behold the Christ, a light dawned that cannot be extinguished. As we end this year and start a new one, we offer special thanks for your faithful presence and this community of faith. Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Help us to see more clearly your glorious light, that we will open our hearts to your reign on earth as we dedicate our lives to your service. Amen.

Response (*singing*)

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

Hymn Sing

Morning Prayers

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

Solo

"Wexford Carol"

Traditional Irish Carol

Offering

Hymn No. 130

"Joy to the World!"

Blessing

May our eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around us,
and our sense of mystery be deepened.

May we be aware of the light that shines in the darkness,
and that the darkness can never put it out.

May we be blessed with companions on the journey,
friends who will listen to us and encourage us with their presence.

May we learn to live with what is unsolved in our heart,
daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.

May we find the still, quiet place inside ourselves,
where we can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in us,
and through us to those who need our care.

May we continue to dream dreams
and reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for us.

Postlude

Today's Greeters: Barbara Janczunski, Margie McKenney

Soloist: Kristen Bressler

TCC News and Events: Subscribe to our newsletter: www.tccnorton.org/contact-us/newsletter/

Ways to Give:

- Place an offering in the plate near the door of the sanctuary.
- Give online via our TCC website: www.tccnorton.org/giving
- Use your mobile device by downloading the free Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app



TCC Prayers and Blessings:

The family of Robert C. True, Jr., father of Rob True, on his passing.

Sandy Anderson; Melanie Stewart; Midge Crow; Paul Salvas; Jim Stewart; Becky McGrath;
Karen Antonio; Pat Wedge; Mal Haskins; Margaret Blake; Richie Chiasson

To request an addition to TCC's Prayers and Blessings: www.tccnorton.org/ministries/#weekly

Today's music used by permission – OneLicense.net – License No. A709948

Thank you for joining us today!

No matter who you are...

or where you are
on life's journey...

**YOU are
welcome here.**