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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER**

CHRISTMAS I: HOLY FAMILY – December 31, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

(This liturgy was compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski, 2015)

Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

[**The candles are lit.**]

Scripture: “Isaiah 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

**Prayer: “O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.”**

Advent Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel (New Verse)

O Come O Come Christ Jesus Our Lord

the Son of Man, and God’s incarnate Word

In You, our Hope, our Peace, Joy, and Love,

we share on earth the life of heav’n above.

Rejoice! Rejoice! / Emmanuel

Shall come to thee / O Israel

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Colossians 3.15, 16*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Song: *Hope Is A Star*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**May all the earth be filled with his glory.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous,

**And joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**

Glory to God in the highest,

**And peace to his people on earth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.** **Alleluia!**

To us a child is born: **O come, let us worship.**

**Invitatory** *- Psalm 67*

May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*

**show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*

**for you judge the peoples with equity**

**and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth her increase; \*

**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing, \*

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

To us a child is born: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Isaiah 61:10–62:3.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,

and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; \*

**praise him in the heights.**

Praise him, all you angels of his; \*

**praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon; \*

**praise him, all you shining stars.**

Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*

**and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; \*

**for he commanded, and they were created.**

He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*

**he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, \*

**you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*

**tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

Mountains and all hills, \*

**fruit trees and all cedars;**

Wild beasts and all cattle, \*

**creeping things and wingèd birds;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*

**princes and all rulers of the world;**

Young men and maidens, \*

**old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, \*

**for his name only is exalted,**

**his splendour is over earth and heaven.**

He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants, \*

**the children of Israel, a people who are near him.**

**Hallelujah!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter to the Galatians 4:4–7.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 23 - *The Song of The Firstborn - Colossians 1:15–20*

Christ is the image of the unseen God, \*

**the first-born of all creation,**

for in him were all things made, \*

**in heaven and on earth.**

Through him and for him were all things made,

before all he exists, holds all things in one. \*

**The Church is his body, and he is its head.**

He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; \*

**in all things he alone is supreme.**

God made all his fullness to dwell in him, \*

**to reconcile through him all creation to himself,**

everything on earth and everything in heaven, \*

**all gathered into peace by his death on the cross.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision* (CP #505)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (2:22–40). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

For our own needs and those of others. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***] **Lord, grant us peace.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

**[*Silence. Take a moment to offer up your own thanksgivings to God.*]**

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Remember, Lord, your people bowed before you, and those who are absent through age, sickness, or any other cause.

**Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, inspire the faint-hearted, and bring the wandering to your fold.**

Journey with the travellers, encourage the oppressed, defend the widows, deliver the captives, heal the sick.

**Strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress.**

Remember for good those who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have asked us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them.

**Remember especially, Lord, those whom we have forgotten.**

For you are the helper of the helpless, the saviour of the lost, the refuge of the wanderer, the healer of the sick.

**You know the need of all and have heard each prayer: save us in your merciful lovingkindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word.*

*May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *Father I Adore You* (MP #139)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**