

**2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)**

<https://zoom.us/join>

**Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 742 347 8806 Passcode: 6562894
+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings”

Traditional
Arranged by Jim Brickman

CALL TO WORSHIP

We waited.

And imagined a savior.

We imagined power.

One like the world but stronger and on our side.

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

We imagined the work done for us
through the destruction of our enemies.

**We receive a baby who will teach us our calling
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Praise to the wisdom of love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**We celebrate your life, O God,
that, like a light, reveals our true colors
and brings our shadows into sight;**

**We celebrate Your life, O God,
that, like a song, teaches us our place in Your harmony
and forces us to re-train the discordant voices within us;**

**We celebrate Your life, O God,
that, like a field, allows both wheat and weeds to grow
until we learn to tell the difference and keep only what nourishes;**

**We celebrate Your life, O God,
gracious and true and transforming
abundant and eternal. Amen.**

HYMN 143

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
See the great desire of nations you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the-eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

As we continue the season of Christmas, let us confess our sins, our actions and our inactions, that are contrary to the kingdom of the newborn King.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Presence and Light,

We like to imagine that we are bold and strong, that there is nothing that can frighten us. But, we are not strangers to trembling,

Our doubt leaves us feeling alone and afraid, and our hiding brings much rejection to You and to others. Our self-centeredness leaves us feeling deprived and poor, and our grabbing results in great need.

Our sort-sightedness leaves us uncertain and insecure and our lack of listening divides and separates.

Somewhere inside of us we do believe, we do trust and we do love;

The simple gifts of worship and love that we offer now are tokens of this faith; signs of our thanksgiving

and of our longing to be more bold in following You.

May our gifts and our lives be Your instruments of healing and comfort;

For the sake of all in our world who grieve, all who despair, and all who live in want and hatred.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that our sin does not have the final word. God will turn our mourning into joy, God will comfort us, God will give us gladness for sorrow. Friends, in the name of the Jesus Christ, you and I are forgiven!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all wisdom and might, send your Spirit this day that we might hear your word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believe in you. May your scripture be a feast upon our lips and a gladsome song to be sung for all eternity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations^[a] I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

PSALM 147:12-20

12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

13 **For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.**

14 He grants peace^[a] within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

15 **He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**

16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

17 **He hurls down hail like crumbs—
who can stand before his cold?**

18 He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

19 **He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

JOHN 1:1-18 DOWNSIZING

SERMON

HYMN 132 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God made all that is seen and unseen, filling the universe with the life of God, filling creation with the glory of God, And filling history with the purpose of God. We believe it. God became flesh and revealed His glory in Christ, showing the world the character of God, giving humanity the dignity of God, ending death's tyranny by the resurrection of God. We believe it. God continues to work in the world by the Holy Spirit, flooding the earth with the Presence of God teaching Christ's followers the truth of God, drawing all people into the family of God, We believe it and we proclaim it. Hallelujah!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN 510 WE GATHER HERE IN JESUS' NAME

**We gather here in Jesus' name;
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

**He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
The Lord, who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.
We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.**

**We'll gather soon when angels sing;
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We thank and praise You, O God for You are not distant and uninvolved in our lives and our world But, you have come to us, humbly and gently, challengingly and irresistibly. And whoever receives You, whoever believes in You becomes a child of God, born of the Spirit. Silent Reflection So, we remember Jesus' birth and life, His suffering and

victory. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends; He took the loaf of bread and blessed it, then breaking it, He offered it to them saying: This is my body broken for you. Eat this in memory of me. After the meal, He took the cup of wine and blessed it, then He offered it to them saying: This is my blood shed for you. Drink this in memory of me. So, we eat and we drink and we remember. With hope and joy in the new life which comes in God's kingdom. Amen. God of Grace, Come to us again in this meal, and as we share this bread and wine, may we share in Christ's body and blood; May we offer ourselves to you again, and may we become one with Christ and with each other – a single, unified body. Amen. Communion is received We Give Thanks We thank You, Lord God, For breaking into our world, our lives and our experience. We thank You, O Christ, For this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells. We thank You, O Spirit, For Your Presence and Your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate deity,
Please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lay his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"

African American Spiritual
Arr. By Tom Fettke
Piano Arr. By Marilynn Ham

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Come join us!

Nancy Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Jan 3, 2021 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFNOTjhrOEVBYXIqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

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TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BEGIN A BOOK STUDY ON JAN. 12, 2021

Everything Is Spiritual: Finding Your Way in a Turbulent World

by Rob Bell

The book is available on Amazon for \$13.95.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660964669?pwd=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

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