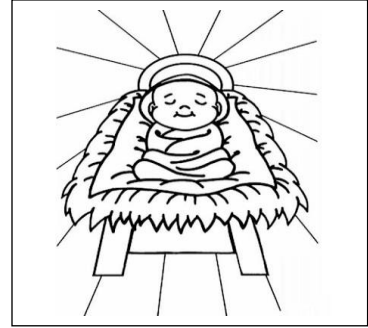


**Perley Parish**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**January 2, 2022**



**Gathering Hymn:** Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Once you sang creation's story;  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
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.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God whose sends the word with angels who is made flesh among all people and who breathers peace on all the earth. In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace

Holy God,

**We confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen**

There is great news for all people that God has come among us, in the child born of Mary, and that all our sins are forgiven because of all that Christ the Lord has given for us. Amen

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 147:12-20 (read responsively)

- L: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion  
C: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.  
L: He grants peace<sup>[a]</sup> within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.  
C: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.  
L: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.  
C: He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?  
L: He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

C: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.  
L: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.  
Praise the LORD!

**Old Testament Reading:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

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." 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. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations 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. 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." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 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. 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. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel** according to John 1:1-18 **Glory to you O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,<sup>[c]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[d]</sup> full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,<sup>[e]</sup> who is close to the Father's heart,<sup>[f]</sup> who has made him known. The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Preaching Text:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,<sup>[a]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is

kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly,<sup>[b]</sup> but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## **Children's Message**

Greetings

What or who do you think of when I say the word love?

I think of Jesus dying on the cross and I think of family and friends.

I think of one of the commandments "Honor thy Father and Mother."

When I was growing up those were the two people I looked to for guidance and security.

What is your favorite time with your mom and/or Dad?

Mine was playing catch with my dad or watching my mom bake cookies or bars. She'd let me clean the mixing bowl out after she got done baking.

Also mom and dad gave the best hugs.

So what I want you to do is give mom and dad a hug when you get a change. Just remember they are there for you just like Jesus is!

## **Message**

The reason I took this certain text from the Bible is that it talks about the one sure thing that everyone has experienced, THAT IS LOVE.

First, the whole Old Testament law is summed up by one word LOVE. All the commandments are based on love.

Love is mentioned many time in the Bible Depending on what version you use for your Bible, ESV – 684 times, King James – 442 times, New American Standard – 479, New Living Translation – 759 and New International version – 686.

Jesus showing his love for others

Jesus told his disciples, "Love one another as I have loved you."

1. Feeding of the 5,000 Matthew 14:13-21
2. Healing of the blind man John 9:1-12

And many other stories of Jesus healing the sick, feeding the hungry, teach the people, caring for the widow and defending the children.

Stories of love form the human side of the Bible. All different kinds of love

1. Adam & Eve – the start of all of it

2. Abram & Sara
3. Isaac & Rebekah
4. Jacob & Rachel
5. Michael & David – Michael youngest daughter of Saul
6. Bathsheba & David
7. Ruth & Boaz
8. Samson & Delilah

All stories of love, not perfect love, but love in human form.

The only perfect love is from the Lord.

Five actual ways to love like Jesus

1. Be mindful, connect more deeply with people
2. Be approachable
3. Be full of grace – relate to others in less judgmental ways
4. Be bold, shed our fears
5. Be self-giving; less self-absorbed and more invested in those around us

Over and over, Jesus demonstrates these qualities to show us that they are not unattainable ideals, instead they are a doable way to get an earthly handle on heavenly ideals.

What I'm getting at is Jesus' love is never-ending. We can obtain a level of love that Jesus has. Don't be afraid to love!!!

As I end this sermon just remember,

Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It doesn't insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, endures all things. Love never ends.  
Amen

Let us pray: Dear Lord, thank you for being there like our parents are; and showing us the abundance of love from YOU and our parents. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day/Offering** – Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Your little ones, dear Lord are we,  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten every soul and mind  
That we the way to you may find

Oh draw us wholly to you, Lord  
And to us all your grace accord  
True faith and love to us impart  
That we may hold you in our hearts

Offering Procession: We Give Thee but Thine Own

*We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the people: (Merciful God, **receive our prayer**)

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

You journey with us through change. Guide those considering new roles in the next few weeks in our congregations or making transitions in their families, workplaces or communities. As the seasons and calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and all places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with illness, disease and long for healing in any way. Today we especially lift up Roger and Sonya, Daniel and Terry, Marlis and Whitney, Jaime, Anne, Brent and Lynn and those we now name silently in our hearts.... Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. And let us pray together that Jesus taught us.

***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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

Blessing:

**The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen**

Sending Bell

Sending Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive it's 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

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.

Dismissal: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

- Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – 9am at Kirkebo w/council following,  
10am Sunday School and 11am service at Nora
- Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – Joint Council Meeting 6:30 at Kirkebo  
Nora council to meet separately following the joint meeting

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