

First Sunday of Christmas – The Name of Jesus

January 1, 2023

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God
our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all
people,**

and call us to be messengers of your peace.

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors

and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn “What Child Is This”

#296

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27

²²The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Galatians 4:4-7

4When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

What's in a name?

In worship we will be talking about our names, what they mean, where they came from, and the stories that come with them.

Anyone who has ever named someone or something knows that much thought goes into naming things. Whether that is a child, a pet, a car, or anything else that we deem necessary to be named, thought goes into those names.

In the Toufar house each of our children, and the name they have, has a story attached to it. Even Olivia, whose story at first look is nothing too exciting (she was named after a character on an ABC show), has a story as it was four days before she was finally named, and her middle name is shared with her mother.

Jackson was the name we knew we would give a child before we were ever pregnant. He shares a name with his Great-Grandfathers, Norm (who they called Jack) and Wallace.

Owen, who was a bit of an unexpected joy, is named after a young man from my hometown whose name I wear on my wrist, and Edward was his Great-Grandfather.

Even when we talk about what we would name a dog oneday, there is much thought and conversation. The only daughter in the house is sure that it will be a female dog and she will get to name because she didn't get a sister. There is still much conversation to be had on that front.

I remember what I named my first car. A 1997 Chevrolet Blazer named Red Thunder. My Grandmother named the first car I ever purchased for myself. A Pontiac Grand Prix named Silver Streak.

We name everything.

Our Gospel text for Today is the naming of Jesus. We hear many names for our Savior throughout Scripture. Yes, his name is Jesus, but it is so much more. In Joseph's dream he is told that he will name him Immanuel. God with us. The names that are given to Jesus tell us who Jesus is for us.

The 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 catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in him we are your beloved children. Unite us in mission through the power of his Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, restore your glory to the earth. Awaken humanity to our kinship with all living things that depend on your provision. Teach us to care for the earth and safeguard its treasures for those who come after us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations. Lead those in conflict into negotiation, especially in areas of religious or ethnic strife (*regions and situations may be named*). End acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Delivering God, rescue our siblings in any danger, especially in communities where disaster and disease threaten (*especially*). Move those in authority to respond with speed and compassion. We pray for the safety of first responders, health care workers, and all who protect us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition (*especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Saving God, redeem us and grant us eternal peace. We give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in your undying love, made known to us in Jesus our Emmanuel. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

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 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion

Prayer

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

#290

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!
And all of Good Shepherd said,
AMEN!

Year-to-Date Snapshot

Month of December

Total Revenue **\$33,313**

Total Expenses **\$25,785**

December Difference
+\$7,528

Year-to-Date

Total Revenue **\$299,358**

Total Expenses **\$283,656**

Year-to-Date Difference
+\$15,702

If you had a poinsettia for Christmas worship, be sure to stop by the church to pick it up!

Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29 following worship. All reports must be emailed to DeAnne by January 10.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir begins again on Thursday, January 5 at 9:45. Come and be a part of the choir!