

Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements



### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord, O you people.

**People: We joyfully proclaim Christ is here!**

Leader: The God of all creation animate our bodies with the breath of the Spirit.

**People: The Lord, the giver of life, has come to dwell among us.**

### \*Hymn # 401 – Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**Gather us, your children who run and hide, ashamed, afraid, apathetic. We trade your goodness for ashes. We trade your peace for control. We trade your promise for certainty. Gather us to you and return us to your abundant mercy; may it flow over us, renewing our weary souls. Amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

#### Prayer of Illumination

#### Scripture: John 1:1-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon: The Word in the World

Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Special Music**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**The Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your heart.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

**The Sharing of the Meal**

**Prayer After Communion**

**God of all glory, we give you thanks that you have fed us with your Word made flesh, filling us with grace and truth. As we have received you in this holy meal and believed in your name, help us to live as your children, sharing light and life with all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 673 – Jesus, Light of Joy**

*Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine: source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign. Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.*

*Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun: still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun. Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.*

*With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might. All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night: alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**\*Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Postlude**

# Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

CELEBRATING TIME

# 673 Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did  
2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning  
3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,  
has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,  
God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,  
bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,  
sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.  
al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.  
al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.