

Sunday, January 3rd

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord, O people!

People: For God strengthens the weak and blesses the children.

Leader: God grants peace and gives abundance for all.

People: God has created all things through the Word, and sustains the goodness of creation.

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

O God, you create and sustain all things by your Word. Your love is manifest throughout your good creation. Indeed, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so that we might see, hear and know you in ways never before possible. But we do not always trust in that revelation and in your sustaining power. We sometimes doubt that your abundant love will overcome hatred in our world. Forgive our disbelief. Have mercy upon us for our failure to abide in Christ and to walk in his light. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Adopted by God

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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 shepherds and sheep, we give you thanks that you have gathered us here, revealed to us your glory, and
fed us with your mercy. Now send us out with good news for all—for us a child is born: Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Hymn # 110 – Love Has Come

*Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to
proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God
on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his
mother; What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus,
Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you,
God on high!*

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response: Hymn # 545 – Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace, verse 1

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled. These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child
so long foretold.*

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.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."