

First Sunday of Christmas
The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

December 26, 2021

We welcome visitors into our community!
May you be blessed as you join us in Worship!

* Indicates when congregation stands.
Hearing assistance is available.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **OPENING HYMN** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #270

* **OPENING PSALM** Psalm 148

Leader: ¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: ²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: ³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**People: ⁴Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: ⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**People: ⁶He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Leader: ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**People: ⁸fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Leader: ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**People: ¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

Leader: ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: ¹²Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: ¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is
exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**People: ¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his
faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!**

HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #283

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

People: Amen.

Leader: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Holy God,

People: 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.**

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
† In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN:

“What Child Is This”

#296

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**All: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

WORD

EPISTLE LESSON:

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint

against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HYMN: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #275

*** GOSPEL**

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

HYMN: “This is My Father's World” #824

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Leader: “... Merciful God...

People: ... Receive our Prayer”

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

All: 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.

SENDING

OFFERING

(As a spiritual discipline, ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you in offering yourself and a portion of God's many blessings God has given you for God's use in the church and world. A collection box is available in the narthex of the church for the indoor service and at the side door of Nelsonville for the outdoor service. To support the ministries during this pandemic time and as a response to God's love for you, consider using electronic giving at www.trchurch.org/electronic-giving.)

*** BLESSING**

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

*** HYMN:**

Joy to the World

#267

*** DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

People: Thanks be to God.