

## December 26, 2021 – First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 161 - "Amen, Amen" is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. It connects with today's Gospel. Merry Christmas!

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Men and women, old and young, together: Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

**Congregation: Praise God in the highest heavens. Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.**

Liturgist: God commanded, and we were created. God sustains us and enables us to grow.

**Congregation: Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness. Glorify God's name and join the loving community.**

Liturgist: Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved. We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: Let us draw close to God and to one another. Let us join with all creation to worship God.**

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 426 - Also connected to the Gospel, "O God, Whose Steadfast Love" ends the 2nd verse with "So Sarah laughed and Hannah wept, and singing Mary secrets kept, and singing Mary secrets kept."

Confession of Sin

**Heavenly Parent, we have wandered away to pursue our own agenda. We have laid aside your expectation that we will forbear one another and forgive. We harbor grudges against people. There are some we neglect and some we disdain. We have viewed them neither as your beloved nor as our sisters and brothers. The peace of Christ does not rule in our hearts. Your truth is not what flows from our lips or finds expression in our actions. O God, turn us around, that what we do may be a genuine expression of your love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) "Go Tell it On the Mountain"

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson – Colossians 3:12-17

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 165 - "Love Came Down at Christmas" - The author also wrote "In the Bleak Midwinter." This short little hymn says so much in such a little space. Portions speak of "love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign. Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign."

Gospel Lesson – Luke 2:41-52

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental)

Closing Hymn - NCH 154 - "Go Tell It on the Mountain" - This spiritual celebrates the gift of our Savior and is celebrated in churches of all denominations.

Benediction

Postlude