

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 2, 2022
WILLMAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.willmarumc.org

WELCOME

Bruce Taylor, Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 147

Leader: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

People: Praise your God, O Zion!

Leader: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

People: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

Leader: He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?

People: He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

Leader: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

People: Praise the Lord!

HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

UMH 224

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

SONG "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" FWS 2098

MESSAGE "Unlocking the Mystery" Pastor Jo Anne Taylor
John 1:9-18

WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL (see insert)

HYMN "And Are We Yet Alive" UMH 553

INVITATION TO COMMUNION, CONFESSION, PARDON, PEACE UMH 12

GIVE & SERVE

UNISON PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR

Creator God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Help us to begin this year with fresh hope and new joy, as we seek to love you more and more. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE BREAD AND CUP
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" UMH 606

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE