



CHRISTMAS I
12.28.25
Jammies Church

Prelude – Welcoming Music and Opening Conversation

Welcome to Church on the Square! We're doing things a little differently this week, including breakfast treats and conversation for our service. Grab some breakfast and start or join a table. When you're in a group of 3-5 people, make introductions and get to know a little bit about each other.

Welcome and Explanation – Amy Sens

“The earth provides us a brand new beginning every twenty-four hours. It is a repeated invitation to breathe in the cool morning air and start afresh; to mimic the sunrise and brighten up while reaching once more for the sky; to carry a glad song in our heart like the early birds; and, as faithfully as the morning dew, to wash off the dust from yesterday.”

— Richelle E. Goodrich

Song - O Come All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
born the King of angels!**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest! [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Alpha, Omega,
now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

Announcements and Offering

Resolution Run - Jan 1 at 2pm at Patterson Park. Come cheer us on, even if you're not running!

Paper prayer requests

Scripture Reading: John 1:19-34 MSG Amy Sens

When Jews from Jerusalem sent a group of priests and officials to ask John who he was, he was completely honest. He didn't evade the question. He told the plain truth: "I am not the Messiah."

They pressed him, "Who, then? Elijah?"

"I am not."

"The Prophet?"

"No."

Exasperated, they said, "Who, then? We need an answer for those who sent us. Tell us something—anything!—about yourself."

"I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached."

Those sent to question him were from the Pharisee party. Now they had a question of their own: "If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?"

John answered, "I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to hold his coat for him."

These conversations took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing at the time.

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God."

Prayers of the People - Jim Hamilton

Reflection – Amy Sens

Table Conversation - 5 minutes

Share in groups of 2-3.

1. When is a time you've started over this year?
2. What is a word or phrase that stands out to you in the gospel reading?
3. Does the image of a river or washing speak to some part of your life?

Creation and reflection stations

- ✧ **Woven River** - Share your hopes for the new year
- ✧ **Gratitude Letters** - write a thank-you letter, either to help you feel more gratitude, or to send and brighten someone's day
- ✧ **Streamers river** - Create a river to walk through. What does it feel like to go through and come out on the other side?
- ✧ **Christmas Crackers** - Decorate and assemble a classic Christmas toy.
- ✧ **Baptismal font** - remember your baptism
- ✧ **Let go into the water** - for releasing the things that no longer serve

Regathering Song – Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;
Our mortal songs employ,
While fields and floods,
 rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Eucharist - Jim Hamilton

God be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord

Let us praise God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Fellow-Traveler

It is right to give God thanks and praise

It is right, always and everywhere, to give God thanks and praise. Today we remember with gratitude the gift of the incarnation: Jesus living among us, giving us an example of love through his words and his actions. We remember his call to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, and how he challenged us to see every person as our neighbor and as bearers of the image of God.

We remember the example of John the baptizer, who responded to your spirit by letting go of everything to live in the wilderness and encourage people to start over, all while watching for the arrival of someone greater - Jesus.

We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had one last meal with his friends. During the meal, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. As often as you eat it, remember me."

We remember that after the meal was over, Jesus took one last cup of wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to the disciples, saying "Take, drink, this is my blood shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of the world. As often as you drink it, remember me." Let us share the wine, receiving Jesus' gift of grace for ourselves.

Let us pray:

Holy God, let your Spirit of love be known and felt in these elements of bread and wine. Work through them to transform us, body and soul. Bring us healing and wholeness through the love, care and example of your son, Jesus. Amen.

Closing Song – All I Want for Christmas is You

**I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents underneath the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you
Yeah**

**I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need (and I)
Don't care about the presents underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking there upon the fireplace
Santa Claus won't make me happy with a toy on Christmas Day**

I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas
I won't even wish for snow (and I)
I'm just gonna keep on waiting underneath the mistletoe
I won't make a list and send it to the North Pole for Saint Nick
I won't even stay awake to hear those magic reindeer click
'Cause I just want you here tonight
Holding on to me so tight
What more can I do?
Oh, baby, all I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh-oh, all the lights are shining so brightly everywhere (so brightly, baby)
And the sound of children's laughter fills the air (oh, oh, yeah)
And everyone is singing (oh, yeah)
I hear those sleigh bells ringing
Santa, won't you bring me the one I really need? (Yeah, oh)
Won't you please bring my baby to me?

Oh, I don't want a lot for Christmas
This is all I'm asking for
I just wanna see my baby standing right outside my door
Oh, I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
Oh, baby, all I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas (all I really want) is you, baby
All I want (I want) for Christmas (all I really want) is you, baby

Dismissal - Jim Hamilton
