

December 27, 2020 - First Sunday of Christmas

Worship - Presbytery of Southern New England

Welcome to this worship service which is offered to your congregation as a gift from the Presbytery of Southern New England. We have prepared worship services for the first Sunday of Christmas, today, December 27th, and Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd, to allow for your pastor and worship leaders to be able to take a break, and for your congregation to continue online worship during this time of Covid-19. These are complete worship services and the liturgies are adapted from the newly released book, Liturgies from Below, 462 Acts of Worship: Praying with People at the Ends of the World by the Rev. Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes of our Presbytery who teaches worship and liturgy at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. As you settle into worship today, I invite you to light a candle if you are able, to take a few deep breaths to center yourself, and to place your feet on the ground.

Hear these words of welcome, in the three languages of our Presbytery....

Come, Let us Worship the Lord!

Venha, vamos adorar o Senhor!

와서 함께 주님을 예배합시다 !

Opening Meditative Music

Carol of the Bells, Harp, April Stance

Call to Worship

(p. 42)

Hallelujah Hallelujah
Praise be to God
To the God of land
God of the sea
God of the sky
God of the mountains,
The God of rain
The provider of manna
God of our mothers and fathers
Come and be with us this
Morning as we bring our
Hearts to worship you
We come to you with our
Hearts that are dry, hopeless and heavy
With hope that you are
The God that provides,
You are the God of yesterday,
Today and tomorrow



THE PRESBYTERY OF
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Hymn #136 Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **R**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the eart
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **R**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **R**

Prayer for Telling the Truth

(p. 75)

You invite us to ask for living water,
water that satisfies our thirst. You are
that living water poured out for us.

We confess that we seek to quench our
thirst in other ways.

We drink deeply, choosing these sweet waters
that turn to fear in our bellies.

We confess that rather than turning to you,
we set out to be brave.

Seeing the fear outside ourselves, we try
to force out fear by casting out others.

Lord, help us to drink deeply of your love
remembering it is perfect love that casts
out fear.

Strengthen us to practice love to ourselves,
those close to us, and those we overlook.

Fill us with living water until it
overflows.

Assurance of God's Love

(p. 222)

Be blessed, those of you who move,
Be blessed, those of you who mourn,
Be blessed, those of you who are meek and merciful,
For you **are** the power of God. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

Psalm 148

Children's Sermon

Erika Plank Hagan

Scripture

Luke 2: 22-40

Sermon "Finding Beauty, Finding Hope"

Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo

Offering

For the offering today, you are invited to give through your normal channels of giving to your local congregation. If you wish, you may also give to the Presbytery, to support our anti-racism and reparation work at www.psne.org/donate

Offering Music Video

People Look East

Paul Vasile, Music that Makes Community

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #137 He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah, forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah, forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah, forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah, forevermore.



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Benediction

(p. 57)

And now, even as you step out into the Empire,
be not of this structure, but be:
the light that liberates
the salt that savors
the hand that heals
the water that washes,
Until all have access to God's great and beautiful creation.
Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, May the Lord be with you.

Closing Meditative Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Harp, April Stance



Worship Notes

- The opening and closing meditative harp carols are from the Rev. Dr. April Stace, Affiliate Professor of Pastoral Care at The General Theological Seminary in NYC and Director of Spiritual Formation at Brooklyn First Presbyterian Church. They are used with permission from her newly released harp album, *Something Like a Star: Harp Music for Christmas*. <https://aprilstace.net>
- The liturgy for both services is adapted from the newly released book, *Liturgies from Below, 462 Acts of Worship: Praying with People at the Ends of the World* by the Rev. Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes of our Presbytery. <https://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com>
- Thank you to Elder Stephen Hart, Moderator of the Presbytery and Erika Plank Hagan, our Communications Manager, who assisted with putting these services together and to Margaret Leupold, who handled the recordings.
- Thank you to Erika Plank Hagan for the Children's Sermons!
- *Star Words, Star Gifts* - are being used in the liturgy for January 3, 2020, Epiphany. More information about this practice can be read about at this link: <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-2009/star-gifts>
- Every congregation/ministry will receive their Star Word by January 3, 2021 in the mail, and all clergy in PSNE, and elders serving on PSNE committees and teams will also receive theirs this way.