

Synod ZOOMfest Worship

January 10th, 2021 at 9am MTN

ZOOM worship link: <https://zoom.us/j/93121810023>

US: +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 931 2181 0023

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rmselca



As you prepare for worship today, please gather a bowl of water and a candle for part of the gathering. You will also need bread and wine/grape juice if you wish to participate in communion.

Prelude: Christ the Servant, Louisville, CO

*As we gather, please share a word of hope or gratitude in the chat!
What are you grateful for? What are your hopes for 2021?*

WE GATHER

Call to Worship

A new year has dawned and our God is made known from shore to shore

Repeat the sounding joy!

Our savior Jesus, born for the nations is Immanuel, God with us!

Repeat again the sounding joy!

Though the refrain of the world is often anger, grief, oppression, and despair

We let our joy resound through the streets as we join them in bringing a true peace to our communities

When fear threatens to fill our hearts

We come as the magi and step boldly into fearful places. And we are met there by our God.

So let us gather in joy that resounds in our hearts as we reflect on one year and look toward another

Let us join heaven and nature and raise our song!

Song: Joy to the World

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,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

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

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Rev. Libbie Reinking, Epiphany, Denver, CO

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you.

Candle-Lighting Litany

...As we gather as one body from the many and varied spaces and places within the Rocky Mountain Synod, we are reminded that we gather with the church throughout the world, with those we can see and those we may never know. The Holy Spirit makes us one in Christ, the Christ made known to the world by the light of a star, by a babe in the manger, by the words of the prophets, and by the love shown in God's people as we live that love in the world each day.

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ellie Linden-Johnson, Peace, El Paso, TX

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Rev. Kaila and Ilaria Armbruster, Shepherd of the Valley, Grand Junction, CO

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him

homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon: Bishop Jim Gonia

Song: Holy Child Within The Manger

Text: Marty Haugen; Music: Beach Spring. Text © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy Child within the manger,
Long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger,
Come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
Greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken,
Teach us now where you are found.

<p>Holy Child within the manger, Lead us ever in your way, So we see in ev'ry stranger How you come to us today. In our lives and in our living Give us strength to live as you, That our hearts might be forgiving And our spirits strong and true.</p>
--

Once again we tell the story --
How your love for us was shown,
When the Image of your glory
Wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
Come, and fill us with your grace,
May the fire of your compassion
Kindle ev'ry land and race.

WE ARE FED

Prayers: From the 11 Conferences of the Rocky Mountain Synod

Utah: Rev. Christine Higuera-Street, St. Matthew's Taylorsville, UT

Wyoming: Rev. Nathan Keith, Trinity, Laramie, WY

North Colorado: Deacon Ro Fesser, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, Brush, CO

Boulder-Broomfield: Rev. Chad Kohlmeyer, Atonement, Boulder, CO

Rev. Kathy Armstrong, Cross of Christ, Broomfield, CO

Metro West Mountain: Rev. Jeff Carlson, Good Shepherd, Glenwood Springs, CO
Metro West Metro: Rev. Mandy Achterberg, St. Stephens, North Glenn, CO
Metro East: Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, St. Paul, Denver, CO
Metro South: Rev. Gordy Sandquist, Holy Spirit, Littleton, CO
Southeast Colorado: Rev. Carrie Baylis, First, Colorado Springs, CO Rev. Dan Holt, Ascension, Colorado Springs, CO
Border: Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson, Peace, El Paso, TX
North New Mexico: Rev. Nicole' Ferry, Bethlehem, Los Alamos, NM

Blessing of Our Spaces

Rev. Kristin Schultz, All Saints, Albuquerque, NM

We invite you to walk to a door.

God of our comings and goings, and of staying in. Bless those who enter and exit through this door. May every day be a reminder that we are called into the world to proclaim the good news of your love in word and deed with everyone we encounter.

We invite you to go to a window.

God of creation, you care for the world you love so much. Give us eyes to see the wonders right outside our windows and hearts to live in ways that honor the earth and its resources.

We invite you to a chair or bed where you find rest.

God of all comfort, you wrap your peace around the hearts of the hurting and grant rest to the weary. May these places of rest in our homes be reminders of your presence and make us mindful of those whose have no place to rest their heads.

We invite you to a table.

God of all people, you gather us together around the food that nourishes our bodies and the company of one another that nourishes our spirits. Gather us in joy with the understanding that you are always the welcome guest at our tables. Help us see where there is lack on the tables of our neighbors and grant us hearts that never stop being generous to our siblings near and far.

AMEN.

Great Thanksgiving: Bishop Jim Gonia

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right ...

We join the unending chorus from which the morning stars began:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He took the bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in taste and touch, Beyond all words can hold.

Lord's Prayer:

You are invited to pray in the version or language of your heart.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please commune those in your presence with the words: "Body of Christ, given for you" as you give the bread and "The Blood of Christ, shed for you" as you give the wine or juice. If you are alone, Bishop Jim will commune you. After receiving the bread and wine you may respond "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

If you are not comfortable receiving communion in this way and you are fasting until we meet again, please know that your decision is honored, you are still a part of the body of Christ. You may pray this prayer:

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Embodied Blessing

Rachel Bass Guennewig, Daily Bread Yoga

People of God, do not be afraid to make known the coming of our God.
Be bold, Christ is with you. May your heart be strengthened for the journey.
Be loud; the angels sing with you! May your words be healing to those who hear them.

Be understanding. May your heart be tender toward the fear in the world and hearts that ache. Be persistent as magi in pursuit of a star.

And May the God who never gives up enliven your hearts to live out your baptism, in the name of the +Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

Closing Song: Blessed Be

Blessed be the Lord, our God of Israel

From everlasting to everlasting.

Whoop! Whoop!

Blessed be the Lord, our God of Israel

From everlasting to everlasting.

And let all God's people say "Amen." Amen!

And let all God's people say "Amen." Amen!

And let all God's people say "Amen."

Oh, praise the Lord.

Whoop! Whoop!

Here we go, here we go! Whoop! Whoop!

One more time.

Whoop! Whoop!

Yeah.

Go in peace. Live God's love in the world.

Thanks be to God