

Opening Song No. 108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

¹ Of the Father’s love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

² By his Word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one,

all that sees the moon’s soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!

³ O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Opening Prayer

Carol Long

Loving God you find us at an unfamiliar place. Familiar things do not fit quite right and we feel disjointed. Your unending love comforts and makes us whole. Open our hearts to allow your love to enter through the Christ child, Amen.

We Listen for God’s Word

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Mary Koon

Sending Song

“Near or Far”

J McKinnon

Near or far apart, You’re always in my heart. God’s love is here to stay, Close and far away. Resting in God’s peace, Praying for God’s hope, Serving God’s joy, United in God’s love.

Choral Anthem

“Joyful, Joyful”

Scripture

Genesis 1:1–4, 14–19

Anne Fisher

John 1:1–5

Anne Fisher

Message

“Before the Stars”

Anne Fisher

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mary Koon

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

We Respond in God's Name

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Mary Koon

Offering Music "What Is This Fragrance"

Hand Bells

The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people
here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom
we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Carol Long

**Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you
are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we
have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving
the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being we rejoice
with you. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Closing Song No. 110 "Love Has Come"

**¹ Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**³ Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Benediction

Anne Fisher

Sending Song No. 26 “Earth and All Stars!”

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!

Postlude

“O Come, Little Children”

Hand Bells

†††††

Participants in worship today include:

Hand Bell Players: **Linda Johnson, Carol Long,**
Jane Propsom and Nancy Scott;

Vocalists: **Emma Wasko** and **Isaiah Evans;**

Organist/Hand Bell Director: **Nancy Hauser;**

Pianist: **Judy Cooper;**

Liturgist: **Carol Long;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Pierce Flanagan and Bob Gerdes.**

Oak Grove Announcements

The Perfect Gift

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need – the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of our Presbyterian Church offerings. Half of what is received goes to a Presbyterian-related school for minority students and half is for current retired church workers who are in critical need. Please give as you can to the Christmas Joy offering. You can give online or mark your check accordingly.

Light a Candle

Send us a picture of you and your household holding lit candles to sgjerset@oakgrv.org by Dec. 21 for it to be in the Christmas Eve montage.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour will take a break this week so members can participate in the parking lot caroling event.

Caroling: Dec. 13

Do you, like me, have the urge to go caroling? Let's try it – Covid style. Sunday, Dec. 13 after church we'll do a parking lot Carol Sing. You'll need to stay in your cars (with windows down) and wear your mask. Leaders will start each song and we'll do the best we can!

Singing will start around 12:30 pm. If weather is extremely cold or snowy, we'll cancel and hopefully reschedule. Questions? Contact Judy Cooper (jcooper835@gmail.com).

From Supportive Housing

The Supportive Housing Committee would like to support the request from Aeon to help ease the loneliness of many of their residents in this time of lockdown. Many have no family and no outside contacts and are feeling the loss.

[From Aeon]

"Looking for a safe way to volunteer? Many of our residents can use some holiday cheer during this time of isolation. Write a "Thinking of You" card. Need some ideas on what to write? Share some stories about your pets, have your kids draw a picture, or talk about your hopes for 2021. Sign your card 'An Aeon supporter' or your first name only. Any notes of support are appreciated!"

Note cards will be available on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Parking Lot Caroling event. They can be returned on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at the Starlight Drive-Thru. Thanks for your help!

Starlight Drive-Thru: Dec. 16

Join us for an **ALL AGES** "Starlight Drive-Thru" in our parking lot. We will have luminaria, snacks, caroling and a prayer. This will be a wonderful way to say hello and share a little holiday cheer. We'll also be collecting toilet paper for VEAP.

Chancel Flower Sign-up for 2021!

We will continue to have colorful arrangements for our Sunday worship services, virtual or in-person. Select a date in memory of or in honor of a loved one, group or event. The cost is \$30 due at sign-up. Contact Sharon Fields at 952-831-0504 (a landline) or urbanfields2.1@q.com to sign up and reserve your special date.

Sanctuary Guild: Dorothy Beattie

Sanctuary Guild members work very hard behind the scenes to add to the spirituality of the service. Many thanks to Dorothy Beattie for her decades of service, dedication and direction, you made things beautiful and visually interesting.