



First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024 ❖ 10:00 am

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

Guest Organist: Patricia Johnson

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Coming Events

Monday, Dec. 30 and Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Church office closed

Wednesday, Jan. 1 — Church office closed

Thursday, Jan. 2 – 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Sunday, Jan. 5

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel
- 9:10 am Spiritual Formation Class: "Who is Jesus?"
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Monday, Jan. 6 – Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, Jan. 8

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
- 11:00 am Good Grief Meeting
- 6:00 pm Men's Corner Meeting
- 6:00 pm Nurture Group

Thursday, Jan. 9 – 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, Jan. 10 – 9:00 am Beaders Group

For more events, dates and times, visit our church calendar:

<https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar>

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Hymnal #497

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins in 4/4 time and features several time signature changes: 5/4 at measure 5, 6/4 at measure 14, and 4/4 at measure 18. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with line numbers 3, 7, 10, 15, and 18 indicating the start of new lines of text.

How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing star, with
Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he
Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with

3
mer - cy beam - ing from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es; O
deigned to cast a pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture; the
praise, ye sin - ners fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion. In -

7
right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

10
Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es: Je - sus, Je - sus!
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture; Je - sus, grant us,
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion. A - men, A - men!

15
Ho - ly, ho - ly yet most low - ly, draw thou near us;
through thy mer - it, to in - her - it thy sal - va - tion;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise be giv - en

18
great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873), after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608).
Music: "Wie schön leuchtet," melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608);
arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please remain standing as able and join in singing.

The Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Hymnal #96 (Refrain)

The image displays two systems of musical notation for the Gloria in excelsis Deo refrain. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o." The first system shows the beginning of the phrase, and the second system shows the phrase repeated, starting at measure 7. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Branes (1887-1958).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

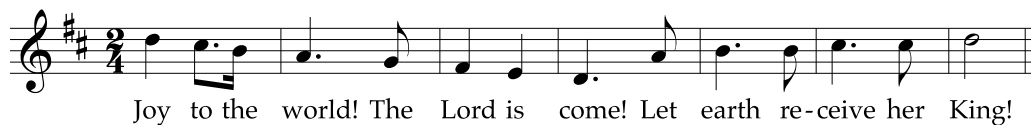
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 147

Reader Let us read from Psalm 147 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: George Frederick Handel (1685-1759);
adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

¹Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

⁴He counts the number of the stars *

and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *

there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, *

but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *

make music to our God upon the harp.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *

and prepares rain for the earth;

⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *

Refrain

Refrain

and green plants to serve mankind.

¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *

and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *

he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *

in those who await his gracious favor.

Refrain

¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *

praise your God, O Zion;

¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *

he has blessed your children within you.

¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *

and his word runs very swiftly.

Refrain

¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *

who can stand against his cold?

¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *

to them he has not revealed his judgments.

Hallelujah!

Refrain

The Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

^{4:4}But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn God Rest You Merry, Gentleman

Hymnal #105

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

In Bethlehem in Israel
This blessed babe was born;
And lay within a manger
Upon this blessed morn;
For which his mother Mary
Did nothing, taking scorn.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
The holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through

Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing as able.

The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**)

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy + on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All **Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

The Offertory Anthem Organ Meditation

Patricia Johnson

The Offertory Hymn

What Child is This

Hymnal #115

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Please stand as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**


It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Hymnal #S-78



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo-ry, Ho-

san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: "Forest Green," English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

Please kneel or stand as able as the Celebrant continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,**
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of

your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

Celebrant And now, as Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

The Fraction Anthem

Away In a Manger

Away in a manger

No crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus

Laid down His sweet head

The cattle are lowing

The Baby awakes

But little Lord Jesus

No crying He makes

The stars in the bright sky

Looked down where He lay

The little Lord Jesus

Asleep on the hay

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

For our online community: an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal #79

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee
For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a -
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is
O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we

5
lie, a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep, the si - lent stars go
bove, while mor - tal sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring
giv'n! So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his
pray. Cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to -

9
by; Yet, in thy dark streets shi - neth the ev - er - last - ing
love. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly
heav'n. No ear my hear his com - ing, but, in this world of
9 day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great, glad ti - dings

13
light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
birth, and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
sin, where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
13 tell. O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord, Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). "St. Louis," Louis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✚ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal #100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains,
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.

The Postlude

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Thomas, Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelmann, Joseph Leahy, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Albert, Andrea, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Ceri Falk, Charlotte Baker, Chris, Chris Goldsmith, Colette Furbush, Daniel Drayling, Erica, Gail Winters, George Ginis, Hector Gutierrez, Jayne, Judy Morgan, Kristen, Loren, Patt Parker, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Sally Hill, Stephen, Tommy, Tony Deley, the people of the Middle East, and victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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