

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9:15 a.m.

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## **Gathering Of Disciples Christian Church**

**(G.O.D.'s Church)**

**A Christian congregation**

**located in the Angel Chapel at the  
Manitowoc Health and Rehabilitation Center  
2021 South Alverno Road  
Manitowoc, WI**

**Phone: 920-323-3178 (please leave a message)**

**Email: [godisciples2016@gmail.com](mailto:godisciples2016@gmail.com)**

**<https://www.gatherofdisciples.org/>**

*Please Greet One Another and Welcome Visitors*

*Announcing the Day*

*Today we read from the Book of John that God is revealing in a human person and The Word continues to dwell among us as Christ.*

**Order of Worship**

Prelude:

Announcements:

**Welcome**

L: Let us now take a moment to center our hearts and minds on God in preparation for worship.

**Call to Worship**

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

L: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

**C: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!**

**The Service of Prayer and Praise**

L: God of Promise and mysterious Light,

**C: be with us this day as we journey in our faith; to meet your Gift. Give us courage and hope along our way, as your light will continue to glow brightly in our path, leading us to service and discipleship in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

The Entrance Hymn

#229 vs 1, 2, & 3

*"The First Noel"*

**The Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please stand if you are able*

L: All-glorious God,

**C: we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved.**

L: The Christ has come in Jesus of Nazareth to show us the undeserved favor of God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

**The Hymn of Praise (sung)**

*( O Come, Let Us Adore Him #144 vs 1, 2, & 3)*

**O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

**We'll praise his name forever, we'll praise his name forever, we'll praise his name forever, Christ, the Lord. We'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory, Christ, the Lord.**

L : The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### The Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God, **C: you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14** *(Please be seated)*

<sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;  
shout for the foremost of the nations.  
Make your praises heard, and say,  
‘LORD, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.’

<sup>8</sup> See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
expectant mothers and women in labor;  
a great throng will return.

<sup>9</sup> They will come with weeping;  
they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel’s father,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

<sup>10</sup> “Hear the word of the LORD, you nations;  
proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD will deliver Jacob

and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

<sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;  
they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—  
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,  
the young of the flocks and herds.  
They will be like a well-watered garden,  
and they will sorrow no more.

<sup>13</sup> Then young women will dance and be glad,  
young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;  
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will satisfy the priests with abundance,  
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”  
declares the LORD.

### **Psalm 147:12-20** *(read responsively)*

<sup>12</sup> Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;  
praise your God, Zion.

<sup>13</sup> **He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.**

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **He hurls down his hail like pebbles.  
Who can withstand his icy blast?**

<sup>18</sup> He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.

**Praise the LORD.**

### **The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

L: The Readings for today. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (sung)** *Please stand if you are able*  
(*We Three Kings #233 vs 5*)

**C: Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and  
Sacrifice; Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and  
skies. O Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal  
beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us  
to thy perfect light.**

L: The holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

<sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

L: The Word of God.     **C: For the People of God.**

**The Message** (*Please be seated*)

Never to be Divided

**The Hymn of the Day**

**#243 vs 1 & 4**

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

**The Apostle's Creed** (Please stand if you are able)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the Church**

L: "Lord, in your Mercy"     **C: "Hear Our Prayer"**

**The Offering**

*Please be seated*

**The Offering (sung)**

*("What Child is This #184 vs 3)*

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary! Amen.**

### The Offertory Prayer

L: As long ago travelers laid their gifts before the Christ child, **C: we too bring our gifts with great joy. Use our gifts for justice and righteousness, that oppression and violence may cease and peace may flourish. May the light of your love shine through our living, that suffering may end, and all may rejoice in your gift of life. Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer *Please stand if you are able*

L: Let us join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us and give praise with the ending acclamation given to us by his apostle, Mark. **C: 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 Benediction

L: May Christ, who by his birth has filled us with grace and truth, give us peace this day and always.  
**C: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.**

### The Closing Hymn

#229 vs 4, 5, & 6

*"The First Noel"*

L: Go forth and follow the star. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Next Service will be on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 am.  
As we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord.**

### Those Serving Us Today

Message:	Tom Reed (Don Vogt)
Leader:	Frank Griffin
Reader:	Julie Bubolz
Music:	Mari Roedig
Usher:	Matt Swadner/Barb Evenson/Terri Fish
Altar Prep:	Bev Griffin/Wendy Reed/Barb Evenson

### Donations

Donations are taken in the basket as you enter the chapel. Each month, Gathering of Disciples church donates to charitable non-profit organizations in our community and to the Manitowoc Health and Rehabilitation Center activity fund.

Thank you for your generosity as we grow in service to our Lord.

### Thank You

Thank you to all our members, and residents of the Manitowoc Health Care Center who are so faithful in their attendance to our services. We welcome all of our guests and pray that the Spirit will touch you with the light of Christ.

