

First Sunday of Christmas, Year B

Color: White

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#) (Clothed in the garments of salvation)

[Psalm 148](#) (The whole of creation in praise of the Lord)

[Galatians 4:4-7](#) (Children and heirs of God)

[Luke 2:22-40](#) (The presentation of the holy Child)

Themes: Christmas, Salvation, Praise, Children of God, Light

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn (REJOICE REJOICE)	Isaiah, Luke
Angels From the Realms of Glory (REGENT SQUARE)	Psalms, Luke
Child in the Manger (BUNESSAN)	Galatians, Luke
Emmanuel (MCGEE).....	Luke
Fairest Lord Jesus (ST. ELIZABETH)	Isaiah, Galatians, Luke
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM)	Luke
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (HOUSTON)	Luke
Jesus Shall Reign (DUKE STREET)	Psalms, Luke
The Hands That First Held Mary's Child (KINGSFOLD)	Galatians, Luke
He Is Born (IL EST NÉ)	Galatians, Luke
Jesus, the Light of the World (WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT)	Galatians, Luke
In the Bleak Midwinter (CRANHAM).....	Galatians, Luke
Love Came Down at Christmas (GARTAN)	Galatians, Luke
Once In Royal David's City (IRBY).....	Luke
What Child is This (GREENSLEEVES)	Isaiah, Galatians, Luke

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Carols to Christ Be Sung – E Galatians, Luke
Jeffrey Honoré
© 2003, GIA Publications, G-6419
Unison, Organ, opt. Winds, Handbells

Come Join the Angels Singing – E Galatians, Luke
QUITTEZ, PASTEURS/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 1976, H. Flammer, A-5718
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard, opt. Percussion

The Friendly Beasts – E Psalms
ORIENTIS PARTIBUS/Joel Martinson, arr.
© 1995, Choristers Guild, CGA 680
Unison, Organ, opt. Flute, Oboe

Go Tell It On the Mountain – E Isaiah
African American Spiritual/Edwin Childs, arr.
© 2001, Fostco Music, YS 0103
2-Part Any, Keyboard, opt. Flute

How Far Is It to Bethlehem – E Galatians, Luke
STOWEY/William Schoenfeld, arr.
© 1989, GIA Publications, G-3181
Unison, Piano

In Sweet Rejoicing – M..... Isaiah, Luke
IN DULCI JUBILO/William J. Greene, arr.
© 2015, Paraclete Press, PPM01533
2-Part Any, Organ

In the Bleak Midwinter – E Galatians
CRANHAM/Bradley Ellingboe, arr.
© 2001, Kjos Music, 8947
2-Part Mixed, Piano

Infant Holy – E Galatians, Luke
W ZLOBIE LEZY/Mark Shepperd, arr.
© 1977, Concordia Publishing, 98-3377
Unison/2-Part Mixed, Keyboard, C-Instrument

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant Go – E Luke
Carl Schalk
© 2003, Concordia Publishing, 98-3733
2-Part or Unison, Organ, 5 Bells

Nativity Carol – ME Luke
John Rutter
© 1976, Oxford University Press, 9780193420540
Unison, Organ

Nunc Dimittis – E Luke
John L. Bell
© 2000, GIA Publications, G-5161
Unison/SATB, Organ

Once In Royal David's City – E Isaiah, Galatians
IRBY/Walter Pelz, arr.
© 2003, Choristers Guild, CGA 960
Unison/2-Part Mixed, Organ, C-Instrument

Praise the Lord! O Heavens Adore Him – E Psalms
Michael Burkhardt
© 1993, MorningStar Music, 50-9305
Unison, Organ, C-Instrument

The Snow Lay on the Ground – E Galatians, Luke
VENITE ADOREMUS/Leo Sowerby, arr.
© 1952, H.W. Gray, 2238
Unison, Organ

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem.
The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas
than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today.*

— THOMAS MERTON, *The Seven Storey Mountain*

To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult every year.

— E. B. WHITE, *The Second Tree from the Corner*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God is here! The Messiah has come!
We open our eyes to see him
and lift our hearts to worship him.
We have come to worship Christ,
the new born King.*

— Steven R. Gibson*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord, all heavens and earth!

Praise the Lord, all creation, and sing God's praise!

Let God's name, alone, be exalted.

For the Lord has done wondrous things.

— WH

CONFESSION

Leader: For Christ was born of Mary,
became flesh, like us.
The Wondrous Gift is given,
but was without sin, unlike us.
Let us confess our sins to God.

(A time of silence for personal confession and reflection)

Generous God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
you give us the greatest gift of all — yourself.
But, caught up in our own gift exchanges,
we often overlook yours to us.

People: Forgive us, gracious God,
for our distracted hearts and careless devotion.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: To all who received him,
People: to those who believed in his name,
He gave the right to become children of God.
Thanks be to God!

— after Phillips Brooks, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*,
and *The Worship Sourcebook*

RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

— PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1868

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UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, the shepherds were full of your praises after all that they had seen and heard. Holy Spirit, move now in us that we might experience the wonder and joy of the living word. Amen.

— SRG

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PRAYER OF OFFERING

O what can I give to him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I'd bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I'd do my part;
Yet what can I give him? Give him my heart.

— CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, 1872

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UNISON BLESSING/BENEDICTION

(inspired by Galatians 4 and Luke 2)

Go with your eyes wide open to the salvation of God,
redeemed and adopted as a child of God, set free
through the grace and peace of the Christ Child born for
you this Christmas, and always. Amen.

— WH

*Thanks to Rev. Steven R. Gibson for his contributions to this week's prayers and liturgies.