

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day



[Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο](#)

Morning Prayer

Sunday January 3, 2021

Hymn: *How Bright Appears* # 497

Scripture Sentences BCP. p. 75

Confession BCP. p. 79

Invitatory BCP. p. 80

R: **To us a child is born:** *Come let us adore him.*

Jubilate *Psalm 100* BCP. p. 82

The Psalter *Psalm 147. 12-21* BCP. p. 804

Following the Psalm,...

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit *
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen*

THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

The lessons should be announced by the lector, citing the complete citation so that people may follow along in their bibles. The following format is suggested:

“The First (...or Second) Lesson is written in (such a book), the (...such a) chapter, beginning at (...such a) verse.”

At the end of the reading the following should be said:

“Here ends the first (...Second) Lesson.”

First Lesson *Ephesians 1. 3-14*

• Faithful departed: Mrs. Edna Beharry

Intercessions

R... "Lord hear our prayer."

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save.

Wonderful Counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth: *R*

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness: *R*

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities: *R*

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace: *R*

Remembering especially in this holy night...

Let us commend the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God. *R*

The General Thanksgiving *BCP p. 101*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *BCP p. 102*

The Grace

Hymn *Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness*

1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Today's Readings **Second Sunday after**
Christmas

Psalm 147. 12-21

- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him,
*
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

FIRST READING

The first lesson is taken from the Letter to the Ephesians, the first chapter, beginning at the third verse. (Ephesians 1. 3-14)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** just as he chose us in Christ^[a] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. **5** He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight **9** he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,^[b] having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, **12** so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked

with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Here ends the first lesson

SECOND READING

The second lesson is taken from the gospel of John, the first chapter beginning at the first verse. (John 1. 1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

And 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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends the second lesson

Commemorations in the Episcopal Church for the Twelve Days of Christmas

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses... [Hebrews 12:1]

Week of January 3rd to January 9th

- January 3 The Holy Name of Jesus (traditional)
- January 4 Elizabeth Seton, Founder of the American Sisters of Charity, 1821
- January 5 Sarah, Theodora, and Syncletica of Egypt, Desert Mothers, 4th-5th century
- January 6 **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**
- January 8 Harriet Bedell, Deaconess and Missionary, 1969
- January 9 Julia Chester Emery, 1922



This Week's Focus on a Commemoration:

Harriet Bedell (1875-1969) was an Episcopal deaconess and missionary to the Cheyenne in Oklahoma, Alaska Natives (spending 15 years at a missionary school), and the Seminole of Florida. Harriet Bedell was born in Buffalo, New York, to a prominent local family (an uncle was a prominent hotelier). She went to local public schools and became a schoolteacher. In the early 1900s, she was inspired by preaching

about vocations to imperial China and learned about the need for missionaries among the Native Americans. In 1906 Bedell studied at St. Faith's Training School for Deaconesses—begun in 1891 and renamed the New York Training School for Deaconesses in 1908—learning a range of topics from nutrition and hygiene to medicine and theology. In 1916, Bedell accepted a remote post in Stevens Village, Alaska, 40 miles (64 km) south of the Arctic Circle. It was located between Fort Yukon and Rampart. She worked alone there for three years with the Athabascan people, and also helped to form an Episcopal boarding school for rural native children in nearby Tanana, since many children could not travel to local schools. In 1922, Bedell traveled to Portland, Oregon, and was formally ordained as a deaconess.



Gospel Reflection—Commentary on John 1: [1-9], 10-18

Jesus–Wisdom

John identifies that which has become flesh and blood as the “Word.” Here he draws on language closely associated with the figure ‘Wisdom’. In a first century CE Jewish text, the Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom is described as “she who knows your [God’s] works and was present when you made the world.” Jesus, like Wisdom, is described in John’s Gospel as the one

through whom the world came into being (1:3, 10; see also Proverbs 8:22-31) and who does the works of God (5:36; 10:32; 14:10).

John also draws on the language of “Wisdom” found in another Jewish text from the second century BCE, Sirach. Here, Wisdom is said to make her dwelling (*kataskēnō*) in Jacob (Sirach 24:8). John uses the same verb root (from *skēnoō*) in 1:14. A more literal translation might render this verse, “The Word pitched its tent among us,” giving the phrase a wonderfully earthy feel. This alternate translation also provides a sense of God’s intentionality. God has chosen this place, a place identified not by physical characteristics or geographic boundaries, but by reference to relationship (“among

us”). <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/second-sunday-of-christmas-2/commentary-on-john-11-9-10-18-3>

Poems for reflection

SHELLS OF EXILE

Then were the wanderers with sea shells for a symbol
led by conquest, feared by the conquerors,
leading the conquered to a strange new way . . .

Lonely and praying they built and carved old stone
where the god of earthquake threw it,
forever separate and alone
in their cassock beads and tonsure
they had nothing to remember for a home,
no thoughts except of sea—like shells of ocean
they were cast up on beaches of the world.

Shells then they carved, so like themselves
all hollow vessels holding no memory
but the waste of wandering,
fluted shells (like hands that cut
the hard resistance of earth-fossiled things)
to cleave the rolling mountains of the sea;

perfect shells to guard the lintel, bless the altar arch:
they made a symbol of their emptiness
chiseled where feet have worn the corridors of exile,
where hands recorded only things sea-thrown
on shores of the world, vessels emptied of forgotten dreams
to hold a barren heaven hardly won.

Mary N. S. Whiteley