

Sunday  
**January 3, 2021**  
9:30 a.m.

## Second Sunday of Christmas

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,  
serving God's world.



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**Opening Prayer:** Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. <sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. <sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. <sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. <sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

**Carol:** #254 We Three Kings

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Prayer** — from *The Book of Common Prayer*

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face-to-face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Duet** ~ Barb Hosner and Karla Stubblefield

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

**Sermon:** "New Possibilities"

**Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory** ~ Tamra Stamm

## Offering Prayer

*Thank you for your prayers and support of our finances.*

Holy One, your light has come. Your light shines brightly in our humble lives. We place this offering upon your altar as an outpouring of your light within us. Glory halleluiah! Amen!

## Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ — As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your church, O God, to ring out the good news of the light of your Son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As John the Baptizer guided crowds of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for our congregation, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for those we name on the places where we are... *(pause)*.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. *Our Father ...*

## Parting Words: "The Ultimate Love Story"

*Glennon Doyle, author of the NYT bestselling Carry On, Warrior and founder of Momastery.com, on the ultimate love story, Jesus's story...and love, mercy and unity.*

## Benediction

The Light of the Star, the light of God's love, shines before you. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love to meet God's people in the world and greet them with the good news of salvation.

And the blessing of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

## Prayer for Family and Friends

### Updates and New Requests This Week

Myrna Forsythe had a stroke and is in the hospital. She really needs prayers.

### Previous Requests

Cande Vermeulen is recovering well from total knee replacement surgery.

Pray for every family undergoing difficulties.

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

## VUMC's Mission Statement



## The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli  
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

## For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz  
Barb Griner  
Flossie Lang  
Robert & Carmen Parsons

Marv Starbuck  
Mina Willett  
Betty Witcher

## This Week's Celebrations

### Birthdays

1/5 Vera Walker	1/6 Lois Myers
1/6 Stacy Gose	1/7 Liam Miller
Therisa Gruber	Robert Parsons

### Thank you

Thank you, Kathy Phillips, for the gift bag from Member Care. Merry Christmas to my Church family. ~ *Sue Epley*

I really enjoyed my care basket. What a beautiful pick-me-up for me. I drink out of my VUMC mug every morning and just love all the goodies and books and puzzle book. I am reading through the celebration book and enjoying it. In Christ ~ *Charlene Taylor*

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the goodie bag that was delivered by the Her-sons. I appreciate the thought and caring of all the church family. Love ~ *Myrna*

### Susanna Wesley Circle will meet

Susanna Wesley Circle is planning to meet together on Thursday, Jan. 21, in the Taylor Room at 9:30 a.m. We will social distance, and there will be no refreshments. Please remember your donations for Generous Hands. We look forward to seeing everyone.

### Coming deadlines

- ShopWithScrip (formerly ScripCents) orders are due in the church office by 2:00 tomorrow.

### Prayer requests are available by phone

You can hear the weekly prayer requests by calling the church (649-2343). When the voicemail connects, dial 370.

## Sunday Worship

9:30 Sunday mornings

live stream at

[meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn](https://meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn)

A Google account is required to watch. If you do not have a Google account and would like to watch the live stream, please email Alex Ensing ([aensing@vicksburgumc.org](mailto:aensing@vicksburgumc.org)) to get your Google account.

We also offer the ability to call in and listen to services over the phone. Before the start time of the service, call (413) 340-2217 and enter the following pin when prompted: 950 134 510#.

**Also watch your email for YouTube links.**

### Midweek prayer meeting

To join the online prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, please click this link: [meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs](https://meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs).

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial: +1 415-604-0783; enter PIN: 815 342 983#.

### Office hours

Polly will be in the office Tuesdays from 9:00 to 1:00, Wednesdays by appointment, and will continue to work from home Mondays and Thursdays.

### UMCOR

With all the hurricanes, storm damage, flooding, and fires, UMCOR needs our help more than ever. Thank You.