

**Dare to Imagine – Christmas Sunday:** Robes dominate this week's images, from Samuel's annual little robe from Hannah to Paul's instructions to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, love, peace.

## **Welcome** Call to Worship

*(adapted from Psalm 148 for four readers and congregation)*

Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens!

Praise God in the heights.

Praise God, sun and moon.

**People: Praise God, all you shining stars!**

Praise God from the earth,

sea creatures and ocean depths,

lightning and hail,

**People: snow and mist.**

Sing praise to God,

mountains and hills.

fruit trees and cedars.

**People: small animals and flying birds.**

Let them praise God's name.

Let all creation praise the name of Yahweh,

whose name alone is exalted.

**People: Praise God's name!**

**All: Alleluia!**

## Prayer

### Candle Litany

Leader: We light the Christ candle

and we welcome new life.

**People: Hurry, hurry, sing the glory!**

**Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

## Songs

### Confession

God, we bring our brokenness to you—

our bodies, minds, relationships.

We trust you, the source of wholeness and miracles,

to take our fragments, jagged edges, and pain.

Bring healing and forgiveness in ways we cannot imagine.

Restore the joy of our salvation

as only you can do.

### Assurance

God forgives you.

Forgive others.

Forgive yourself.

*(silence)*

Be at peace.

## Children's time

**Scripture 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Isaiah 63:7–9, Matthew 1:18-22, Colossians 3:12-17**

**Sermon** The Robe as a Presence of Love

## Songs

### Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times, **“Lord, in your mercy”** respond with **“hear our prayer.”**

## Offering Song

### Announcements

**New Year's Eve worship, Dec. 31 7:30.**

**Intercultural Development Inventory summary session** with Carlos, **February 12.** You may designate funds toward your IDI and the honorarium for Carlos for the introduction and summary to WS.

Cal will have a **month of Sabbatical and planning** starting on January 4, 2022.

### **Sending** (*adapted from Colossians 3:12-17*)

Jesus has come!

Imagine a robe of God's design—clothing yourself with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience . . . and above all else, with love.

Love is the seam that binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Do we dare to imagine?

Imagine wearing a robe of God's design as you go from here.

1 Samuel 2:18-20 <sup>18</sup> But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home.

<sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

Matthew 1:18-22 <sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet...

# Isaiah 63:7–9



[The New International Version](#)

## Praise and Prayer

**7** I will tell of the kindnesses<sup>n</sup> of the LORD,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the LORD has done for us—  
yes, the many good things<sup>o</sup>  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion<sup>p</sup> and many kindnesses.

**8** He said, “Surely they are my people,<sup>q</sup>  
children who will be true to me”;  
and so he became their Savior.<sup>r</sup>

**9** In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel<sup>s</sup> of his presence<sup>t</sup> saved them.<sup>a</sup>  
In his love and mercy he redeemed<sup>u</sup> them;  
he lifted them up and carried<sup>v</sup> them  
all the days of old.