

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

(We invite you to quiet yourself in preparation for the worship of God when you hear the prelude music.)

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude "In Sweet Rejoicing" Bach

Call to Worship The Rev. Robert Smith

Leader: The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;

People: **on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In his name and in his power, let us worship God! - based on Isaiah 9:2

*Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 214

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, in Jesus you entered our world with a love and power beyond what had ever been known. But we have not believed with our whole mind, nor trusted him with our whole heart. We confess the sinfulness of our lack of faith in the active presence of Christ in our midst and in the power of the Holy Spirit to do in and through us far more than we can ever ask or think. We confess the poverty of our hopes, dreams, and expectations. Because we fail to expect you to comfort and heal us, we unconsciously hold onto our distress and disease. And because we fail to expect you to supply the words for witness, we pass over opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with friend or stranger. We confess that focused upon the world that is, rather than the world that will be, we limit, rather than contribute to the coming in fullness of Christ's reign on earth. Forgive us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, hear the Good News! When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Thanks be to God! - Titus 3:4-7

*Gloria Patri No. 579
(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn of Preparation "As with Gladness Men of Old" No. 226

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 98 Page 592

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Carol Medley "Away in a Manger" (Sts. 1,3) No. 204

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (Sts. 1,3) No. 207

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (Sts. 1,2,3) No. 224

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 Page 1014

Sermon "A Christmas Meditation" The Rev. Robert Smith

RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord's Prayer

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 742

The Offering of Ourselves to God and to One Another

Our Greetings

Offertory "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" arr. Held

*"The Doxology" No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" No. 211

Amen "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel. Amen!"

Postlude "God Rest Ye Merry" arr. Held

*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

CALENDAR

Today, 12/25 - Worship, 10:30 am
Monday, 12/26 - Church office closed on Mondays
Tuesday, 12/27
Wednesday, 12/28
Thursday, 12/29
Friday, 12/30

* * * * *

REMINDERS

Elders: Andy Fuller, Lew Richardson
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown
Greeters (10:00-10:30): Dec. 25 - Jeff & Pat Povtak
Deacons on Duty: Dec. 25 - Debbie Bennett, Mary Thornhill

* * * * *

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK: - Pray for Godly wisdom for your children. Ps. 91;
Deut. 4:9; Proverbs 22:6

* * * * *

PCC Food Needs - January - Dry cereal

* * * * *

Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today's service

Pastor: The Rev. Robert D. Smith
Director of Music & Children's Ministries: Mrs. Patricia K. Trail
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose