

JOY GIFT SERVICE - DEC 10, 2017

PRELUDE

JOYS & CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: He's coming! He's coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

P: Let us prepare our hearts to greet Him!

L: He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives.

P: Praise be to God for God's almighty gift to us.

L: O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

P: We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN!

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

CELEBRATION MUSIC

"Light of the World" - Isabella Cox

"Heaven Everywhere" - Carley Edwards

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will. Help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake. Amen

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CELEBRATION MUSIC

"Silent Night & Jingle Bells" - Preschool & Elementary Children

"The Little Drummer Boy" - Olivia Cox & Katlyn Stewart

OLD TESTAMENT READING - *The Innkeeper by Joyce Carr Stedelbauer & Isaiah 9:6*

LEADER: The night fell like a blanket on the hills and valleys of Israel, a black blanket tucked into every curve and cave where Isaiah had promised 700 years before that. The people that sit in darkness will see a great light.

PEOPLE: For a child is born to us, a Son will be given to us, and the government shall rest upon His shoulders and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

LEADER: Mary and Joseph had the Word in their hearts when they arrived at the Inn in Bethlehem needing a place to rest. They were in the precise place that the Father had ordained when He spoke to Micah the prophet centuries before ... Bethlehem in Judah.

NEW TESTAMENT READING - *The Nativity Scene & Luke 2:1-20*

The leader will narrate the Nativity Scene of the Preschool and Elementary Age Children with the New Testament reading of Luke 2:1-20. The congregation may read the scripture silently.

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's hometown, for the census. As a descendant of David he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn. There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights; Peace to all men and women on earth who please Him."

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!"

Leader: This is the word of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM & SERMON

"Noel" - Katelynn Cox & Caleb Miller

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" - Katlyn Stewart

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Please stand and join in our Affirmation of Faith*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

THE RESPONSE TO GOD - THE OFFERING OF GIFTS TO GOD -by the People of God

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OFFERING PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**Joy to the world**

The Lord has come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world

The Lord has come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth

The Savior reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods

Rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Mr. Lewis **Congregation will stand if able*

THERE WILL BE A FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!