

DECEMBER 21, 2008
Christmas Music Festival Sunday

*To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:9)*

PROCESSIONAL Organist Miah Han
"Sicilian Mariners"
David Lasky

ACOLYTE Michael Heffernan
Carl Heffernan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Bill
We extend a special welcome to all guests. **You come as a guest and leave as family.** CDs (\$2.00) & DVDs (\$5.00) are available of today's worship. **Please put your cell phone on vibrate or turn it off. God will find another way to reach you today.**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS
CHIMES OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE Instrumental Ensemble
"Christmas Overture"
Arr. by Eric Osterling

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

L: This is the candle of Love. We light this candle, grateful that God's love has been revealed in Jesus Christ.

P: **The birth of Jesus took place to fulfill the prophecy, "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call him Emmanuel," which means 'God is with us.'**

L: God has made His presence known in Jesus, our Emmanuel.

P: **This Christmas may we live in God's love.**

L: Let us pray:

P: **Loving Lord, thank you for your love. Thank you that your Son is the light of the world. Slow us down long enough to recognize your presence in the events of this season. Help us to walk to your manger, basking in the light of your love. Amen.**

Choir: Praise the Lord!

People: **The Lord's name be praised!**

*CHRISTMAS CAROL Congregation
#23 Angels We Have Heard on High

*THE PEACE Congregation

Liturgist: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please stand and greet one another, saying, "The Peace of the Lord be with you" or some other appropriate phrase.

CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor
(Today is a "Family Worship Sunday." Preschool children will return to Room B05 downstairs with their teachers. K-5th graders will return to the pews to worship with their family. There are activity sheets and crayons in the Parlor).

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM Calvin and Covenant Choirs
with Congregation (please see next page)

"I Wish I Could be in Bethlehem"

Vicki Tucker Courtney

(After first verse) Congregation:
**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
the little Lord, Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

(After second verse) Congregation:
**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liturgist and Congregation
**Lord, sometimes this time of year makes our patience short
with others. Sometimes this time of year makes us more
stressed out. Sometimes this time of year gives us anxiety
over the things we are expected to do. There is a lot of fuss
about Christmas “the holiday” but not about You, “the
Savior.” Lord, forgive us for not giving you center stage.
Forgive us for not seeking Your peace, for not giving You
the glory, and for not looking for Your love that beamed
out of Bethlehem so long ago. Amen.**

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION
(Let us travel through our memories and confess any sins we come upon.)

THE KYRIE p. 574 Congregation
**Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS Pastor

*RESPONSE: Gloria Patri
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*CHRISTMAS CAROL Congregation
#56 The First Nowell (Verses 1-4)

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Pastor

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2: 8-16

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Grace Han, flute
Terry DeFauw, Julie Scarnecchia, Becky Ball-percussions
“Sing, O Sing”
Dave and Jean Perry

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1: 26-31

ANTHEM Chancel, Covenant and Calvin Choirs
Handbell Choir; Danielle Fowler, flute
“Dream a Dream”
Lori True

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-9

ANTHEM Covenant, Calvin, Celebration and Chancel Choirs
Julie Schrot, vocal solo
Becky Ball, Terry DeFauw,
Brad Guldemon, Julie Scarnecchia- percussions
“Children, Go Where I Send Thee”
Traditional African-American Carol
Arr. by Marty Haugen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER Pastor

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

AMEN RESPONSE Choir

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

OFFERING Pastor

(As the offering plates are being passed, please pass the Friendship pads and sign, with your name, address, e-mail and phone, so we can properly greet you if you are visiting with us today).

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING Handbell Choir
Lynn Martin-trumpet, Terry DeFauw- timpani, Miah Han- organ
"Adeste Fideles"
John F. Wade, arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski

*OFFERING RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHRISTMAS CAROL

#29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

(Please remain standing DURING the Benediction and the Choral Response)

*CHARGE/BENEDICTION Pastors

*CHORAL RESPONSE Choir
(Please be seated AFTER the Choral Response. This will allow the Chancel Choir to process out)

POSTLUDE Organist

"Joy to the World"
Michael Bedford

* Those who are able may rise.