

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2013

10:00 AM

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’” Luke 2:15

What difference does seeing make?

Preparation for worship begins as you enter the sanctuary. Please consider others by turning off your cell phone and ending all conversations as you are seated. Read through the order of worship, the scriptures and the hymns. Pray silently for God to speak and to bless all of us. Don’t forget to greet those around you after the service.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham, Organist

We praise our great God

* The Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth peace for those on whom his favor rests.

In the tender compassion of our God, the morning sun has risen upon us who lived in darkness.

The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us, and we have seen his glory.

Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

To us a child is born, to us a son is given. Alleluia!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

*Hymn No. 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav’n 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...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 72:1-19

(*Hymnal*, pg. 810)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish, prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him;

the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever, may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

**The Gloria Patri*

(*Hymnal*, pg. 734)

*Assurance of Grace (responsive)

Isaiah 26:6-9 (ESV)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the LORD, we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

*Hymn No. 226

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradlebed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
 there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities
 The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

**The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication
 God's Tithes and Our Offerings
 The Offertory

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading	Revelation 21:1-5a, 22-27; 22:1-5	(Pew Bible pg. 878)
Sermon	"Seeing the Glorious Consummation"	Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 200	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Carol
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It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King";
 the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
 And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
 Above its sad and lowly plains they bend n' hov'ring wing,
 And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
 Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
 Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
 O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
 When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
 When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (<i>Hymnal, pg. 740</i>)	Danish
Postlude	

 *Those who are able, please stand.

Serving in our Nursery today: Brandi Kuriny & Meara Kuriny; next week, January 5: Betty Werner and Gina Cicone.

Our Christmas Offering will go to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund which provides assistance to the widows and orphans of ministers and missionaries as well as special assistance to retired ministers.

There will be only one service at 10 AM on January 5th. There will be no Sunday School at 9:30 AM, but there will be nursery and the usual children's programs during the 10 AM service.