

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude "In Sweet Rejoicing" Bach

*Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.
People: **Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.**
Leader: For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
All: **Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.**

~Psalm 108:1-5 NIV

*Hymn "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come" No. 195

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess that too often we have been caught up in the urgent needs of the season. We have found ourselves thinking less about you and more about gifts and gatherings. Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting that You are the "reason for the season". Forgive us for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen

*Assurance of Pardon

This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Thanks be to God!

~from 1 John 1:5, 7, NRSV

*Gloria Patri No. 579

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Bill Gearhart & Helen Gearhart Thompson

Children's Time Susan Blanding

*Hymn of Preparation "Like a River Glorious" No. 699

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.

Anthem "Soon and Very Soon" by Andraé Crouch
arr. Jack Schrader

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Held

*"The Doxology" No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 1:19; John 14:27

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon: "Looking for the Real Jesus - Jesus is Our Peace"
Rev. Don Hardman

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 845

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 sitteth on 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

*Hymn "Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise" No. 388

Benediction

Postlude "God Rest Ye Merry" arr. Held

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

CALENDAR

Today, 12/22 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Pray Gathering, 5:00 pm

Monday, 12/23 - Church office closed on Mondays

Tuesday, 12/24 - Church office closed; Christmas Eve Service; 7:00 pm

Wednesday, 12/25 - Church office closed. Merry Christmas

Thursday, 12/26 - Church office closed

Friday, 12/27 - Church office closed

Reminder that the church office will be closed for Christmas and New Year holiday beginning Dec. 23 and returning Jan. 7.

REMINDERS

Elders: Al Soltis, Bill Gearhart

Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown

Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 22 - Bob & Donna Broyles; Dec. 29 - Don & Wendy Andree

Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Dec. 22 - Kaye Ward; Dec. 29 - Ed & Debbie Bennett

Deacons on Duty: Dec. 22 - Marcia Ridenhour, Sheila Harms; Dec. 29 - Brenda Edwards, Marlene Flynn

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK: - Pray for holiness. 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:23-24

PCC Food Needs - December - Beef Stew

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

Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman

Director of Music: Rev. Keith Olivier

Director of Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard

Organist: Mr. William Turner

Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose

Operating Fund Revenue through 11/30/24

YTD Budgeted Giving \$569,507

YTD Actual Giving \$539,262

Surplus/(Deficit) **(\$30,245)**

Thank you for your faithful giving.

First Wednesday Book Club selection for Jan. 8 is "The Fisherman's Testament" by Caesar Vidal.



Please join us this evening at
5 pm in the Parlor for our monthly prayer gathering.
"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." -- Rom. 12:12