

WORSHIP SERVICE **Wednesday, December 24, 2008** **9:00p**

PRELUDE "A Medley of Carols" arr. Davenport
Sue Swick, piano

THE PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2-7 O.T. Page 638

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christmas is yesterday; the memories of childhood; the singing of carols.

All: Christmas is today; the reminder of the generous act; the need to be loved.

One: Christmas is tomorrow; the miracle of faith; the fulfillment of ancient hopes;

All: The reign of God and the dying of Death in the land.

One: Christmas is yesterday, today and tomorrow.

All: Christmas is joy, hope, courage, peace, grace and love, all in Jesus, the babe born this night in Bethlehem and in us.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 41

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Lord of heaven and earth, how silently the wondrous gift is given. In the deepest night there rises the star of the morning, of birth, the herald of a new day You are making. We hear the whispers of peace; in the darkness we see the light and find comfort. We rejoice with the people from every corner of your world, to whom is born this night, in the city of David, a Savior, Christ the Lord. In whose name we pray. Amen

ANTHEM AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

"A Christmas Antiphonal" Hopson
Glen Wissner, baritone, Sue Swick and Diane Goff, handbells

Who is He that is born this night? Tell us, O tell us! He is Mary's Son, the Holy Child. Alleluia! He is God's own Son, the Lord of all. Alleluia!

THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH

Matthew 1:18-25 N.T. Page 1
"Away in a Manger" No. 25
Luke 2:1-4, 8-15 N.T. Page 58

DUET

"Christmas Angels"

arr. Larson

Dorothea Fisher, mezzo-soprano and Leslie Scheuer, soprano

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. Page 2

John 1:1-14

N.T. Page 91

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

No. 38

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM

"The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. Jacques

The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood. The holly bears the crown. (refrain). The holly bears a blossom, As white as the lily flower; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior. (refrain). The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood: And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, For to do us sinners good. (refrain). The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, on Christmas day in the morn. (refrain). The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, for to redeem us all. (refrain).

Refrain: The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

One: As Christmas comes round year by year, Lord, we're tempted to say, "We've heard all this before. We know the story by heart."

All: Forgive us, Lord, and remind us of the difference between knowing it and living it in our lives.

One: The inn-keeper couldn't find room for You in his inn. So, Lord, stop us from cluttering up our lives with things that don't really matter, things that crowd You out.

All: You came into an occupied country where brutal soldiers kicked people around. We are thankful that doesn't happen in our country and we pray for Christians who do live under persecution.

One: Lord, many people missed the glory when You came to Bethlehem, but unskilled laborers, the shepherds, saw it and welcomed Your glory. May we too see and welcome You.

All: Lord, the wise men journeyed hundreds of miles to track you down. And you taught us that those who really seek will find. In these times of difficulty and doubt, never let us rest content till we have worked our way through to the manger and to the Christ. And, keep our eyes fixed on the great goal of life, to bring you the gold of our obedience and the incense of our worship and adoration. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT

CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night”
(Northmont Belles)

No. 60

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

arr. Bedford

*All Who Are Able May Stand

THE CHURCH OFFICE is closed December 24th and will reopen January 2nd. Rev. Ewing may be reached by his cell phone and church phone messages will be picked up daily.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th - single worship service at 10:00a - please note the time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009 - Sacrament of Communion at both services.



