

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Joy to the World"

George Frideric Handel, arr. Callahan

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Jason Howard

Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you for submission to church prayer list.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able, please stand.

INTROIT #154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. K. Henson

Sanctuary Choir

Arlene Lathrop, oboe

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

Liturgist: Jason Howard

Leader: Proclaim to the nations: the Lord is king!

All: Let the heavens be glad,

Leader: And let the earth rejoice.

All: All the trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming!

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

OPENING CAROL #179 "Joy to the World!"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

David and Stephanie Ayoola

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, you instruct us to give thanks and rejoice. And then you bless us with so many reasons to be joyful! Forgive us for the times we choose instead to focus on the negative, to be dissatisfied and unhappy, and to complain. Help us to keep our eyes and hearts turned toward you always, for in your presence is fullness of joy, and at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 8:1-2)

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death. Friends, rejoice again in God's amazing grace:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

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.

PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

*CAROL OF CONSECRATION #185 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Sandra Martin

ANTHEM "Bring a Torch" Old French Carol, arr. Clokey

Children's Choir

Sandra Martin, Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter, and Marie-Anne Coutin-Baxter, soloists

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Psalm 100

Page 522, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "People, Look East" Besancon Carol, arr. Eugene Butler

Sanctuary Choir

SECOND READING Psalm 96:10-13

Page 521, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD "Worship Him with Song!"

Rev. Susan Bennett

ANTHEM "Mary Was the First One to Carry the Gospel" Gaither, arr. Frazier/Mathews

Sanctuary Choir
Laura Richardson and Greg Lathrop, soloists

ANTHEM "Heaven's Child" Beethoven (7th Symphony), arr. Wehman

Children's and Sanctuary Choirs

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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.