

December 25, 2016  
Fifth Sunday of Advent

Preparation for Worship – Please use this time for silent preparation of  
heart and mind for worship of the Almighty God.

Prelude – “Echo Noel” Claude D’Aquin

Announcements

Choral Introit

\*Call to Worship – “Glory to God” (various texts)

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

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

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

Congregation: the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

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

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

\*Invocation

\*Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn - “Joy to the World! The Lord is Come” #195

Word of Greeting – Please pass the Friendship Registers found on the right  
end of each row.

Responsive Reading – Luke 2: 1-20 p.857 in Pew Bible

\*Hymn – “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #203

Morning Prayer

\*Hymn - “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” #211

\*Confession of Faith – The Belgic Confession

Minister: We believe that Jesus Christ is a high priest forever according  
to the order of Melchizedek – made such by an oath –

Congregation: and that he presented himself in our name before his  
Father, to appease his wrath with full satisfaction by offering him-  
self on the tree of the cross and pouring out his precious blood for  
the cleansing of our sins, as the prophets had predicted.

M: For it is written that “the chastisement of our peace” was placed on  
the Son of God and that “we are healed by his wounds.”

C: He was “led to death as a lamb;” he was “numbered among sinners”  
and condemned as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, though Pilate had  
declared that he was innocent.

M: So he paid back what he had not stolen, and he suffered – the “just  
for the unjust,” in both his body and his soul –

C: and he endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

M: This is also why the angel of God called him Jesus – that is, “Savior”

C: because he would save his people from their sins.

\*Doxology #731

Offering

Offering Anthem – “Tidings of Great Joy!” Arr. Parks

*There will be NO Children’s Church today due to the holiday.*

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7 p.573 in Pew Bible

Sermon The Reverend Mr. David G. McKay

“TO US A SON IS GIVEN”

Prayer of Response - “The Gift of Gifts” from The Valley of Vision

Heavenly Father,

What shall I render to thee for the gift of gifts, thine own dear Son,  
begotten, not created, my redeemer, substitute, his self-emptying  
incomprehensible, his infinity of love beyond the heart’s grasp. Herein  
is wonder of wonders: he came below to raise me above, was born like  
me that I might become like him. Herein is love; when I cannot rise to  
him he draws near on wings of grace, to raise me to himself. Herein is  
power; when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart he united them.  
Herein is wisdom; when I was undone, with no will to return to him, and  
no mind to devise recovery, he came, God-incarnate, to save me to the  
uttermost, as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,  
to work out a perfect righteousness for me. O God, take me in spirit to  
the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind; let me hear good tidings  
of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore... let me with  
Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart, embrace him with undying  
faith, exulting that he is mine and I am his. In him thou hast given me so  
much that heaven can give no more. Amen.

\*Hymn – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #218

\*Benediction

\*Postlude – “Joy to the World”

The Rev. Mr. David G. McKay, Minister  
The Rev. Mr. John F. Peoples, Jr., Associate Minister  
Mrs. Julie Covert, Organist and Choir Director