

December 24, 2017

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

Prelude – “Noel” Claude Louis 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

Morning Prayer

\*Hymn - “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #208

\*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 himself 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

Offertory Anthem – “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Arr. Anna Page  
(Children 4 up until age 6 may be dismissed to Children’s Church)

Scripture Reading –Matthew 1:18-25 p.807 in Pew Bible

Sermon The Reverend Mr. David G. McKay

“YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS”

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 – “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” #211

\*Benediction

\*Postlude – “Joy to the World” Handel/Arr. Kay Kendall

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