

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 3, 2010

Worship 8:00 and 10:30

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

* Call to Worship

One: Listen, as God's wisdom gives praise and tells of glory.

One: I came forth like a word from the mouth of God. I covered the earth like a mist, I reigned in heavenly places, and traveled through the deepest abyss. Then I was ready to settle down and I sought a resting place.

ALL: Where will God's wisdom abide?

One: How will God offer HOPE to the world? (1st candle)
How will God proclaim PEACE to the world? (2nd candle)
How will God loose JOY into the world? (3rd candle)
How will God express LOVE for the world? (4th candle)

ALL: Make your home among us, O Wisdom. In us come and live forever.

One: Before time came into being, said God, I was creating. And forever and ever shall I live and make all things new.

One: God lives and breathes among us. God is with us. (Christ candle)

ALL: Let us worship God's wisdom, born to us (Based on Sirach 24:1-12)

* Hymn

"Adeste Fideles"

#135

Call to Confession

God gives us the gift of life. God places the spark of divine wisdom in our very being. Let us consider what we have done with God's gift. Let us confess.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess to you and each other, that we have not fully embraced and utilized the gifts you have granted us. Hear now, our confessions.

When we look deeply and honestly at our lives, all-knowing God, our failure to live faithfully, as your children and as disciples of Jesus, becomes clear. We too quickly become discouraged, failing to be your sign and symbol of hope for the world. We are easily offended and quick to anger, becoming

agents of dissension and division rather than peace. We give in to discouragement and worry, spreading gloom instead of joy to the world. We lack sufficient self-love and are, therefore, hard-pressed to love our neighbors enough to share your unconditional love.

We humbly ask for your forgiveness. We pray for strength, that we may more fully embrace the gifts you've made available to us. Help us to be your faithful children.

Assurance of God's Grace

One of the messages of Christmas is that God never gives up on us. We can be God's message of hope, God's word of peace, God's expression of joy, and the bearers of God's love to a hurting world. May it be so!

OPENING OURSELVES TO THE VOICE OF GOD

The Bible Lesson St. John 1:1-14

Chancel Choir Anthem *"Going to Bethlehem"* Jay Althouse

A Time for Young Christians

(Prayer requests and guest forms will be collected by ushers at the side aisles.)

The Morning Message ***"Children of God"***

* Hymn *"What Child Is This"* #148

EXPRESSING OUR FAITH

Joining Our Voices in Prayer

The children of Israel looked for the coming of your Messiah, O God of promise, they longed for anointing with your spirit. And in the birth of Jesus, we see the promise fulfilled and the anointing come to be.

Now, through our participation in the Body of Christ, we receive an anointing as we recognize your Messiah. Teach us to open ourselves more completely to your Spirit, great giver of gifts. Open our hearts and minds to "Emmanuel", God with us. As the

Body of Christ, and individually as members of that Body, may we be the proclaimers and the sign of your Good News. Let us offer hope, proclaim peace, loose joy and express love in our day and place. And like Jesus, let us be drawn closer to you, parent God, so that we might see with your compassion, and be emboldened by your desire for justice. May we become our true selves, the children of God.

Here us now as we open our hearts to you, gracious God. Lord, hear our prayers.

(Silent and spoken prayers may be added by the congregation.)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy 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, for ever. Amen.

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response

(Tune #148)

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;

The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.

Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

*Offering Prayer

GOING FORTH TO WITNESS

* Closing Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#128

* Benediction

* Musical Postlude