

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2010

Worship 8:00 and 10:30

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

* Call to Worship

One: The God who has called us to this time of worship knows everything there is to know about us.

All: God knows our faults, our broken intentions, even our deliberate wrong-doings.

One: In Jesus, God came to show us how much we are loved.

All: God accepts us as we are, while always kindling ever-new possibilities within us.

One: One of the reasons we come today is to be reminded of God's love.

* Gathering Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

#327

* Call to Confession

Jesus said to his first followers, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." Those words instruct us too, yet we do not always heed them. Let us confess.

* Prayer of Confession

Life can be challenging, Creator God. We know pain and sorrow, anxiety and frustration, and so we often turn to you for strength and help. We turn now, asking that you forgive our myopic view of life, caught up in our needs alone. Help us to move beyond our own hurts and fears, to a place where we are able to see the struggles of others. Forgive us for our blindness to those who need to experience divine love. Forgive us our unwillingness to reach out with words and acts of love. Show us that the more we love, the more we are capable of loving. Touch us afresh with an experience of Your divinely extravagant love, so that we might learn to love more fully.

* Silent Reflection

* Words of Hope

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#23

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

"I Love to Tell the Story"

#522

* Benediction

* Musical Postlude