

THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

The Lord's Day, December 24, 2017
The Christian Year: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Morning Service

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14*

[Please turn off cell phones and observe silence when the prelude begins.]

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

***Call to Worship** Luke 2:10-14
Minister: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Minister: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Unison: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

***Hymn of Adoration** No. 215
While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Prayer**
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, and adore, my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father; place me with ox, camel, goat, to look with them upon my Redeemer's face, and in Him account myself delivered from sin; 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 His name we come to you. Amen.

from "The Gift of Gifts" in The Valley of Vision

***Confession of Faith** HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, Q. 29 & 31
Minister: Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Savior?

People: Because He saves us from our sins; and no salvation is to be either sought or found in any other.

Minister: Why is He called Christ, that is, Anointed?

People: Because He is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us, and ever liveth to make intercession for us with the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

***Gloria** Refrain, Tune: Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

New Testament Reading John 1:1-16

***Hymn of Response** No. 217
All My Heart This Night Rejoices (verses 1-4)

Prayers of the People
Unison: O God Who loves us to the uttermost, May we comprehend your love toward us in the Eden of creation, in the manger of your birth, in the garden of your agony, in the cross of your suffering, in the tomb of your resurrection, in the heaven of your intercession.

Minister: You have loved us everlastingly, unchangeably.

People: May we love you as we are loved.

Minister: You have given your self for us.

People: May we give ourselves to you.

Minister: You have died for us.

People: May we live to you, in every moment of our time, in every movement of our mind, in every pulse of our heart.

Unison: May we never dally with the world and its allurements, but walk by your side, listen to your voice, be clothed with your graces, and adorned with your righteousness. Amen.

Adapted from "Christ is All" in The Valley of Vision

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Assurance

Minister: As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. John 15:9

Unison: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

***Hymn of Thanksgiving** No. 217
All My Heart This Night Rejoices (verses 5-7)

Worship of God through Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology** Verse 3, Tune: Antioch
No more let sins and sorrows grow;
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found;
Far as, far as the curse is found!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

***Reading of the Holy Scriptures** Hebrews 1:1-2:4

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon Clayton Shaver
"GOD HAS SPOKEN"

***Hymn of Response** No. 196
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***Closing Prayer**

Postlude

**Denotes congregation standing, if able.*

There will be no Cookies & Catechism today or next week.

Christmas Eve Service this evening at 6:00 p.m.