

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.

PRELUDE Das alte Jahr vergangen ist J. S. Bach
The Old Year Has Passed Away
(from the *Orgelbüchlein*)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT Ermuntre dich, mein schwacher Geist, BWV 454 J. S. Bach
Ermuntre dich, mein schwacher Geist, und trage groß Verlangen, ein kleines Kind, das Vater heißt, mit Freuden zu empfangen; dies ist die Nacht, darin es kam und menschlich Wesen an sich nahm, da durch die Welt mit Treuen als seine Braut zu freien.

Lob, Preis und Dank, Herr Jesu Christ, sei dir von mir gesungen, daß du mein Bruder worden bist und hast die Welt bezwungen. Hilf, daß ich deine Gütigkeit stets preis in dieser Gnadenzeit und mög hernach dort oben in Ewigkeit dich loben.

Have courage, my feeble spirit, and endure great longing in order to joyfully embrace a little child who is called Father. This is the night in which he came and assumed human form so that he might faithfully take the whole world as his bride.

Let praise, glory, and thanks, Lord Jesus Christ, be sung to you by me, because you have become my brother and have overcome the world. Help so that I may always value your goodness in this time of grace and hereafter in heaven may praise you eternally.

Johann Rist

Bettie McDavid Mason, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP John 1:14a, 4,5

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

People: In him was life, and the life was light for humanity.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: Let us come to the light!

***HYMN NO. 62** (blue hymnal) Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love *Epiphany Song*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of grace and power, you come to us in surprising ways with startling messages. You call us to live in renewed ways, performing unexpected tasks. We confess that we do not always welcome your surprises or greet with joy your unexpected intercession. We prefer the familiar, the comfortable, the usual. For our resistance to your birth of new visions, for attempts to ignore your truth because we prefer the lies of the world, for our desire to create you in our image rather than to give ourselves to your new creation, forgive us. Bring to birth in us new openness to your unexpected presence and your surprising direction. Let us, with Joseph and Mary, give ourselves to your purpose for Christ's sake.

***KYRIE ELEISON NO. 574** (blue hymnal) arr. David N. Johnson

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE** Gloria Patri No. 579 (blue hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING II Samuel 7:8-17

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN JP Mackay

Children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in

Children's Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:10-18

SERMON "Partners In Paradise" Rev. John Linton Muntz

"No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." — John 1:18

***HYMN NO. 306** (blue hymnal) Fairest Lord Jesus *Crusader's Hymn*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

As God's people, we are called to be obedient to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who loves the whole world and who invites us to be stewards of the earth and servants of his people, to be co-workers in the new Creation. Let us be peace-makers. Let us be called children of God, speaking boldly with moral conviction to the nation and to the world, building, with God's grace a new moral order in the world community; and acting now for world peace, an enterprise of justice, an outcome of love.

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. As many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!, BWV 493 J. S. Bach

O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Dein's Vaters Will'n hast du erfüllt, bist kommen aus dem Himmelreich, uns armen Menschen worden gleich, o Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!

O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Dein's Vaters Zorn hast du gestillt, du zahlst für uns all unser Schuld und bringst uns in dein's Vaters Huld, o Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!

O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Mit Freud'n hast du die Welt erfüllt, du kommst herab von's Himmels Saal und tröst'st uns in dem Jammertal, o Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!

O sweet little Jesus, o gentle little Jesus! You have fulfilled your father's will, coming from the kingdom of heaven to become like us poor men. O sweet little Jesus . . . !

O sweet little Jesus . . . ! You have quieted your father's wrath, atoning for all our sin and bringing us into your father's favor. O sweet little Jesus . . . !

O sweet little Jesus . . . ! You have filled the world with joy, coming down from heaven's hall and consoling us in our woe. O sweet little Jesus . . . !

Valentin Thilo

Bettie Mason

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 514 (red hymnal)

Old Hundredth

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

John 1:14a, 4,5

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues)...to the glory of your name.

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

(The congregation will be ushered to the Table, beginning with the first pews on either side of the aisle.)

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION Jesu, meine Freude J. S. Bach

Jesus, My Joy

(from the *Orgelbüchlein*)

In dulci jubilo

Marcel Dupré

In Quiet Joy

PRAYER AFTER THE TABLE

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: And forget not all his benefits.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 63** (blue hymnal) As With Gladness Men of Old *Dix*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586** (blue hymnal) Amen Danish melody

***POSTLUDE** Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning Flor Peeters

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK are Ruthie Carey and Michael Yates.

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR OCTOBER: Georgann Byerley

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTE: Sam Phillips

GREETERS: Angela Shilling and Sam and Chloe Smith

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Nursery Staff

SENIOR USHER: Bill Holt

USHERS: Rick and Janice Rawe, Bob Daverman, Max and Carlene Robinson

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are orchid plants from Laurie & Jack Barron's greenhouse. The arrangement honors members of the Flower Guild for their beautiful contribution to each Sunday's worship service. After the service, the congregation is encouraged to come down and have a closer look at God's handiwork.

OUR THANKS to Eileen Rudd for serving as organist this morning while Peter Van Eenam is away and to Bettie Mason for her enrichment of our worship and her notes on the introit and offertory anthem.

THE INTROIT AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM come from a collection of 954 Lutheran hymns published in 1736 by J. S. Bach's friend Georg Christian Schemelli. For sixty-nine of the hymns in the Schemelli songbook, music was shown, giving the melody line and figured bass (bass line with numbers indicating the type of chords to be used). Bach provided new tunes for a few of the sixty-nine, but for most of them, such as the two heard this morning, he simply revised and corrected the traditional tunes and provided figured bass. With its 3/4 time signature, "Ermuntre dich" becomes a joyous cosmic dance. A little earlier, Bach used this melody, but in 4/4 time, for the famous chorale in his *Christmas Oratorio*, "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (No. 118 in our red hymnal). To the exquisite melody of "O Jesulein süß" Bach added marvelous harmonization, beginning in the minor, moving to the major, modulating momentarily into the minor, and then ending in the major in affirmation of the text.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS will resume its regular weekly rehearsal schedule on Sunday afternoon, January 9, at 4:00. Please note the new time!

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL collection is today. This offering, brought each "First Sunday," is our share in maintaining the Volunteer Ministry Center of Knoxville.

NAME TAG SUNDAY is today. Please fill out a name tag in the Narthex.

COLLEGE AGE/YOUNG ADULT GATHERING: All college age/young adults are invited to come tonight at 6:00 p.m. to catch up with your WPC friends! Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. We'll look for you in the SHOW room. Hope to see you there!

Wednesdays With Westminster (WWW or W³)

Here is what we have planned for Wednesday, January 5, 2011:

5:45-6:30 – Dinner

You do not need a reservation and there is no cost for the dinner, unless you want to make a donation at the door.

6:45 - 7:30 – Activities - All Church Epiphany

Come enjoy the food, fun and fellowship at WWW. You will be glad you did.

WPC ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR WINTER 2011

Faith Topics (McKinnon Room)

Losses of Our Lives, by Dr. Nancy Copeland-Payton

"Based on her experience as a physician, hospital chaplain, and pastor, Dr. Nancy Copeland-Payton invites us to awaken to the losses of our lives – big and small – and embrace the wisdom each has to teach us about the deep mystery of God and the nature of living." In this 8 week course we will look at losses that come our way: leaving the womb as a child, leaving home, losses of loved ones, and many other losses, big and small, that are part of the human condition. Anne Dungan and Tim Crais will be the facilitators for the class and books may be purchased for \$10 at the church office starting on December 20.

Special Topics (Library)

What Kids Really Want That Money Can't Buy: Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World by Betsy Taylor. "At a time when many parents worry that they are raising the 'I want' generation, this book offers a helping hand - and a remarkable dose of the truth. Drawing on the touching, honest words of thousands of children who were asked 'What do you want that money can't buy?' it helps parents peer into their kids' hearts, hear what really means the most to them, and learn to help them get it. Author Betsy Taylor shows us ways to reestablish a love of life's simple pleasures, teach the difference between friendships and popularity, build family rituals, appreciate nature, and find a quiet time together. This must needed book is a dynamic, real-world guide to reshaping our busy lives and giving our children more joy with less stuff - and plenty of what truly matters most." Linda Judge-McRae will be the facilitator for the class and the books will cost \$10 and will be available in the church office starting on December 20.

Bible Experience (Prayer Room)

Corinthians

We will look at St. Paul's advice to a globalized congregation in the ancient city of Corinth. Ellen Anderson and Scott Brunger will lead the class. All are welcome. Come join us.