

The Order of Worship

December 24, 2011

5:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We welcome all to this service of worship, especially our visitors and guests. In the time before the service begins, we invite all who worship here to take a moment to offer a prayer lifting up to God the life and work of this family of faith and its pastors.

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME...

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Josef est bien marié

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

Joseph Has Married Well

Carol text: Joseph has married well, To the daughter of Jesse. This was good news For this girl and maiden To so become God's work. Joseph has married well.

Traditional

Rev. Dr. Buran F. Phillips

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

***HYMN NO. 31** (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Milam Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Will Bendy

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

***HYMN NO. 116** (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM...

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN NO. 44** (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2,6-7

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:1-6, 10-13

***HYMN NO. 40** (blue hymnal) Joy to the World!

Ellen Anderson

St. Louis

Aidan Sears

Eric Adamcik

Antioch

SCRIPTURE Titus 2:11-14

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

***HYMN NO. 41** (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful

JOHN 1:1-5,12-16

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Megan McClure

Ryan Rotella

Anna Milam

Adeste fideles

Buran Phillips

Buran Phillips

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE...

ANTHEM O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appear'd, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His Holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever praise we, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Placide Cappeau

trans. John Sullivan Dwight

Deborah Phillips, Soprano

Laura Dupper, Soprano

Joanne Bendy, Flute

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion by the method of intinction, where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread to dip into the cup. The ministers and ushers will direct you.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J. S. Bach

Come, Thou Savior of the Nations

(from the Leipzig Chorales)

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20

After the scripture is read, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The minister will then light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.

***HYMN** Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

Advent Flowers 2011

(The candle is held close to the breast)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

(The candle is extended outward)

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

(The candle is extended upward)

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth.

Following the singing of the final hymn, the ministers will lead a silent processional to carry the light outside, weather permitting. After everyone has gathered in the front courtyard, we will sing the first verse of "O Come All Ye Faithful."

***BENEDICTION**

*Indicates standing.

OUR THANKS to Deborah Phillips, Laura Dupper, and Joanne Bendy for their enrichment of our worship this evening.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE will be held at 11:00 a.m. (no early service).

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN on December 30th. Please bring to the office your 2011 contributions and any pre-paid pledges for 2012 no later than 10:00 a.m. December 30th. We will resume our regular office hours on Tuesday, January 3rd.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our Flower Guild during this Advent Season.

Ken and Ellen Anderson. In memory of Lucy Anderson
Jack and Laura Barron. . . In honor of their granddaughter, Lillian Fish, her husband, Daniel Tashian
. . .and their great-granddaughter, Tigerlily Tashian

Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren. In loving memory of Clark
The Bonnyman Family. In honor of Westminster Staff
Marlene Browning. In memory of Larry Browning

Sara Cantrell. In memory of Bob Cantrell and Scott Dean
Scott and Jerry Carley. In memory of David Davis
The Carey Family. In memory of Edith Landis and Betty Carey

Landis, Nick and Allie Carey. In honor of their sweet momma, Ruthie
Jane and Mike Casey and Family. In memory of Ralph and Virginia Nichols
Jim and Nancy Cundall and the Chappell Family. In memory of Bill and Lola Chappell

Christie Dowling. In honor of her mother, Betty M. Caldwell
Ken and Carol Faulkner. In memory of Frank and Mary Faulkner and Herman and Irene Clem
Suzanne and Ross Graham. In honor of their children, Kim and Sarah

John and Jan Gross. In honor of their grandchildren, Catherine and Eleanor Connelly
. . .and Carter John Gross
John and Betty Hanes. In memory of their friend, Dale Willhite

Gary, Katherine, Kaitlyn and Nathan Harmon. In memory of Benjamin Harmon
The Hatmaker Family. . . To the glory of God in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. (Doris) Hatmaker
. . .In memory of Linda Morton, in honor of J. G. Morton, in memory of Mrs. J. G. (Ruth) Morton

Russell Holt. In memory of Edith Diane McFadden
Buz and Lucy Johnson. In honor of Mary Watson and John, Bill and Katie Johnson
Anne and John Langley. In honor of Mrs. Robert B. Shepard

. . .and their grandchildren, Bryson, Wilde and Molly Langley
Cile and Ed Mathews. In memory of Matt Mathews
. . .and in honor of Danielle, Hannah and Eva Mathews

Norman McRae, Linda Judge-McRae, Caroline McRae. In memory of Christine Davis Judge,
. . .mother, mother-in-law and grandmother
John and Ibbie Muntz. In memory of Laura Joy Muntz

Rookie and Jane Norton. In memory of their parents, Elmer and Edith Norton
. . .and Julius and Frances Hegedus
Rick and Janice Rawe. In honor of their granddaughters, Maggie, Nina and Sammy

Maggie, Nina and Samantha. In honor of Rick and Janice Rawe (Grampy and Giggles)

Joyce and Tim Ryan. In honor of Matthew, Tiffany, Chandler and Camryn Ryan
. . .and in honor of Lauren Ryan Bice, Brandon Bice and Josie Noelle Bice
Elizabeth and John Salsbery. In memory of Chris Salsbery
Julia Tortorelli. In honor of the marriage of her sister, Laura to Chris Martin
The Tortorelli Family. In memory of Alberta and William Bertelsen, Flora and Joseph Tortorelli
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser. In honor of Chloé and Lacey
. . .and in memory of Justine and George Dukas and Clovis and Gene Tragesser
Robin and Joe Ben Turner. In memory of Olga Wright
The Wiesehuegel Family. In loving memory of Tommy Cunningham, René Cordell,
. . .Mona Rowland and Shirley Rechenbach
John and Shirley Wittman. In honor of clergy and staff
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Chris Salsbery, Bob Cantrell and Barbara Schilling

Symbolism of the Lights

The significance of the Candlelight Service is twofold. First, in the distribution of the lights, we see dramatized before us the spreading of the Gospel Message and the growth of the church through the centuries. The pastor’s candle is symbolic of Christ, the living Word, and is an extension of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. The ushers who carry the light to the congregation represent the Apostles whom Christ sent out to spread the Word and draw the world to Him. The church has grown because men and women and young people who have heard the Good News have been faithful in telling someone else about it, and this is symbolized by your passing the light to the person beside you. The ushers will light the candle closest to the aisle. As each candle bursts into flame and the sanctuary gradually brightens, we catch the significance of Jesus’ statement that we are “the light of the world,” and that we should spread this light to the “very ends of the world.” Secondly, we find significance in the lights during the singing of the dedication hymn. During the singing of the first verse, we hold our lights close as we rededicate ourselves to Christ. As we sing the second verse, we hold the candle out in front of us as we rededicate our homes and families once again to him. During the last verse, we hold our candles high as we rededicate our part of His church here to the task of taking the Gospel Light to every corner of the earth. After the Benediction, please extinguish your light. Receptacles for the spent candles are located in the narthex.

NEWS FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

2012 FLOWER CALENDAR is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please remember to choose a date for 2012 in honor or memory of family or friends. A reminder card will be sent to you. We ask for a \$60.00 donation to the Flower Guild, payable on the date of your dedication. If you have any questions, contact the church office. If you’re interested in joining the Flower Guild, please contact Linda Yates for details.

All Church Epiphany Party

Wednesdays With Westminster will kick off the new year of programs with an Epiphany Party for the whole church family on January 11, 2012. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts for the Christ Child, and the manifestation of Jesus as the light of the world. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m. and child care will be provided for children ages five and younger. *Come and let your light shine!*

THE DAVIDSON COLLEGE ORCHESTRA AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE will perform in our sanctuary on Saturday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will make plans to attend this wonderful concert. If you are interested in hosting one or more of these musicians in your home that night, please contact Carl Whipple.

Please use extreme caution in the handling of the lighted candles to prevent accidents with the hair or clothing of the person in front of you and the pews or carpet. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety’s sake, it is requested that children under six should “share” their parents candle.

READERS: Aidan Sears, Eric Adamcik, Megan McClure, Will Bendy, Anna Milam, Ryan Rotella
USHERS: Emma Adamcik, Leah Milam, Delaney Sears, Savannah Lockwood, Maggie Bendy, Ruth Ann Bendy, Ellie Tidwell, Jake Tidwell, Max Yates
ELDERS: Laura Dupper, Dave Dupper, John Salsbery, Leslie Rotella, Michael Yates, Rob McKeehan, Bill Farnham

College Age/Young Adult Gathering

All college age/young adults are invited to come on Monday evening, December 26th at 6:00 p.m. to catch up with your WPC friends! Pizza, soft drinks and dessert will be provided. We’ll look for you in the SHOW room!