

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2015

Scriptural Meditation

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

Psalm 9:1

Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude *I Wonder as I Wonder* arr. By Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

One: Like Joseph and Mary, we want to protect the child Jesus.

All: We want him to be safe and sound.

One: And when something unexpected happens, we are frightened.

All: We wonder what we should have done differently.

One: Lord, in this day, help us to remember that God is ever with us.

All: Let us place our trust in God's loving presence as we grow in our own faith. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

*** Gathering Song** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* # 143

*** Prayer of Reconciliation**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Lord, it's only a few days after the Christmas celebration and we are exhausted. People have come and gone; gatherings are winding down; we are being reminded of the "normalcy" of life returning to us. We don't want to go there just yet. We want to linger in the warmth of the season. Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time. Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time. Give us courage to live as people of the Light, those who find your comforting, encouraging presence in our lives at all times. Strengthen us for joyful service in your name. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: People of God, feel the presence of God right now, in this place, warming your hearts, forgiving your fears and strife; preparing you for joyful service. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are beloved and forgiven. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Gloria** (Adapted from # 23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

**All: Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!
Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!**

Text: French Carol, trans. By James Chadwick, Music: French Carol, arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes
Copyright © 1937, renewed 1965, Fleming H. Revell Company. H. Augustine Smith, Jr., from the *New Church Hymnal*.

God's Word for Little Ears

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: Let us hear the words of scripture this day. May these words become meaningful in our lives, so that the very presence of Christ will dwell in us richly. May these words of God's wisdom become ones we share together. And may these words guide us to be both hear-ers and do-ers of the Word, doing everything in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

New Testament Epistle Colossians 3:12-17 page 201

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

*** Hymn** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #128

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:41-52 page 59

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Dedicated Living* Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

**All: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
Preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.
Teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,
Healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
Eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
And calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

(From a Brief Confession of Faith, PCUSA, Lines 7-18)

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *What Child is This?* # 145

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (# 675, verse 4)

All: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.**

Tune: Tallis' Canon, Whole Psalter 1561, Public Domain.

Prayers of the People followed by The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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, forever. Amen.

Sung Prayer Response

O Come All Ye Faithful (#133—Refrain)

All: **O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.**

Text: Traditional, Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751, arr. by Tom Fettke
Arr. © 1997 by Integrity's Hosanna Music and Word Music (a div. of Word Music)

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Going Forth** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* # 119

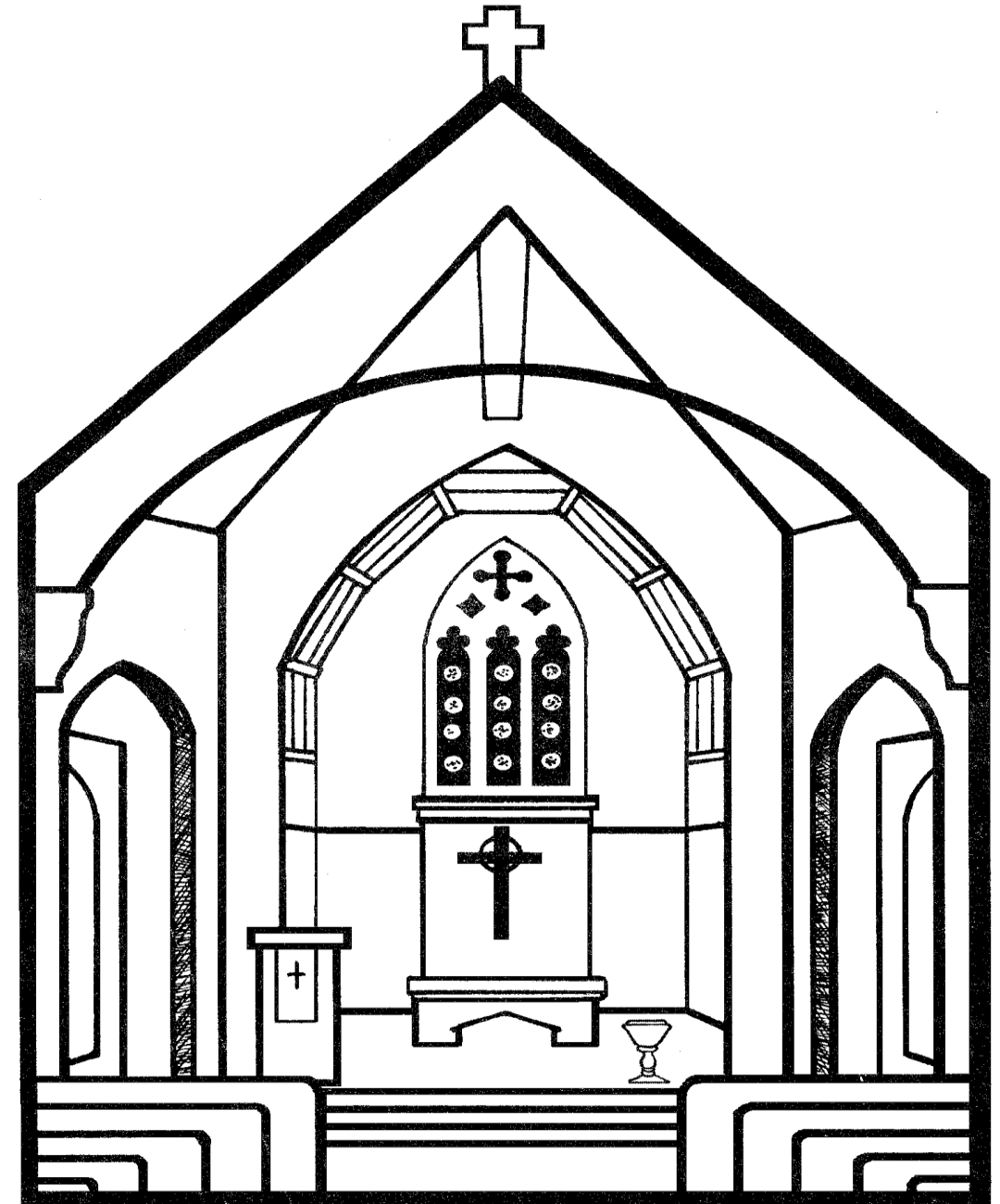
***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. by Mark Hayes

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***Please stand, if you are able.**

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.
Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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