

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 30, 2007

8:30 and 11 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

Beloved children of God, let us give thanks for all that God has done for us.

We give thanks for God's mercy and steadfast love.

In our distress, we know the presence of Emmanuel, God-is-with-us.

Both day and night, the Light of the World leads us.

Come, let us walk in the light of God!

The Prayer of Praise

*The Hymn 23

"Angels, We Have Heard on High"

*The Prayer of Confession

Incarnate One: We recall today how terrible is the darkness You were born to overcome. We confess to You our fear of death and destruction, the violence we allow, and the suffering we inflict upon others. We confess to You our ingrained prejudices, our failures to be merciful, and tragedies too often of our own making. How desperately we need You, merciful God. By your presence, Lord, save us. By Your steadfast love, light our way. . .(time for silent confession).

*The Choral Response

*Assurance of Pardon

Born among us, fragile and vulnerable to the power of this world, God's bond with us cannot be broken by faithlessness or fear, hatred or indifference.

It is the bond of this created world to divine hope.

It is the bond of God with all we know and do not know.

This is God's good news. It is the source of our confidence when we say,

"Our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God." Amen.

*The Hymn 44

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(verses 3 & 4 only)

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

God of prophets, God of our dreams and our waking moments, God of our times of weeping and our days of gladness, lead us, we pray. Guide us toward those times and places where we can grow in the likeness of Jesus. Help us to discern the invitations that come from You so our lives may be a beacon to lead others to fulfillment and joy. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 63:7-9*

p. 848 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 148*

p. 716 in the pew Bible

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

(Please remain seated while joining the choir in singing.)

Hymn 49

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Hymn 28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn 29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 2:13-23*

p. 2 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 56

“The First Nowell”

(verses 1, 2 & 6)

The Epistle Lesson: *Hebrews 2:10-18*

p. 265 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“Hand-Me-Downs”
Patrick Dennis

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

*The *Apostles’ Creed*

p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

Great Shepherd of the sheep, You feast our soul with abundance and satisfy Your people with goodness. We dine on Your mercy and are filled by Your grace. Having received Your gift of Christ our Redeemer, we no longer languish in barrenness but are full of new life. Accept these gifts that we bring You in response to the love You have shown us in Christ.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME.

*The Hymn 46

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Sending Hymn 40

“Joy to the World!”

(verses 1 & 2 only)

*The Postlude