

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

January 23, 2005

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

## THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit                    *"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"*                    Wendell Whalum, arr.

The Call To Worship

God is my light and my salvation; of what shall we be afraid?  
**God is the refuge of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?**  
We hide in the shelter of God's love; God provides for us.  
**Great is the beauty of God. God's light awakens us and  
guides us in our journey of faith.**

The Prayer of Praise

\*The Hymn 477                    *"Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Each time we hear Jesus' call to follow him and become fishers of women and men, it is different for us, O God. We are rarely eager to change our way of living. We like the customary patterns and want to serve in familiar ways that do not upset our routines. We settle into the comforts of cliques and groups of friends, and lose the point of what we are called to do and why. We are fickle followers. We follow, but at a distance, at our leisure, and each in our own way since we do not often agree on Christ's way. Forgive us in your mercy . . .(time for silent confession).**

\*The Choral Response                    *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

\*The Assurance of Pardon

\*The Gloria Patri                    p. 579 in the Hymnal

\*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

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Isaiah 9:1-4* p. 593 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 27:1,4-9* p. 477 in the pew Bible

The Anthem                    *"Ye Followers of the Lamb"*                    Edwin Earle Ferguson, arr.

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Corinthians 1:10-18* p. 991 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

\*The Hymn 358                    *"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*\*The Affirmation of Faith* from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit give us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**Christ, you invite us to follow and become fishers of others. You equip us with talents and gifts for our venture. We humbly respond to your gracious invitation and place our gifts at your disposal. As we go out to serve, receive the results of our efforts in your name. Turn them to good where we have erred. Shed light on our path as we seek to abide in your way. We pray in the holy name of Jesus, our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 357

*"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"*

\*The Charge & Benediction  
\*The Postlude

*"Old Irish Blessing"*  
*"Fantasia"*

Denes Agay  
G.P. Telemann