

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 5, 2004

The Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER . . .

The Prelude

“Merry Old Medley”

The Jubilate Ringers

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“Lo, How a Rose”

The Call To Worship

(Isaiah 40:3-5)

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Holy One;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together!”

The Prayer of Praise

(Psalm 72)

Great and blessed is your glorious name of God of Righteousness and Justice. You seek prosperity for the poor and give deliverance to the oppressed. As you brought Israel back from exile, so you will bring your people from the ends of the earth that your glory may fill creation. You alone do wondrous things! All praise and thanks be to you, O God, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come. Amen.

*The Hymn 450

“O Day of Peace”

*The Prayer of Confession

Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word and failed to inquire after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed to your sustaining love. Instead we destroy the resources of the earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Deliver us, we pray. Amen. . .(time for silent confession)

*The Choral Response

“Agnus Dei”

*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 11:1-10*

p. 595 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 72:1-7,18-19*

p. 504 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

“There is No Rose”

Graham J. Ellis

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Romans 15:4-13*

p. 988 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00 a.m.)

*The *Apostles’ Creed*

p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church
to share with us in His ministry for we are all one in Christ.**

*The Hymn 10

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 3:1-12*

p. 836 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“Who Told You?”
The Rev. Erin C. Sharp

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE . . .

*The *Apostles’ Creed* (8:30 a.m.)

p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

The voice of one crying in the wilderness calls us to prepare Your way, O Lord. Among the sounds of society You choose to reveal Your will. Amid its clamor we yearn to hear voices seeking Your mercy. Send us forth with clear minds so that Your way is proclaimed with foresight. Grant us Your benediction so that our service and ministries are sanctified by Your grace through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME . . .

*The Hymn 360

“Hope of the World”

*The Charge & Benediction

“A Parting Blessing”

*Postlude