

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Pastor and Congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Emmanuel,
Open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
Open our ears that we may hear their cries;
Open our hearts so that they need not be without comfort;
Open our eyes and ears and hearts
And give us courage
that we may be able to do some work of peace for you.
Come, Emmanuel, come.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP ... "Joy to the World"... vs. 1..... 102

GOSPEL LESSON ... *John 1:19-34*..... Reggie Jackson

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

HYMN ... "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ... vs. 1, 3 and 4 107

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Brandi Powers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor and Congregation

O Lord God, as we rejoice at the birth of Jesus, the Christ, forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst, for all the times we have doubted your presence, and for all the times we have failed to help others find their way. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

MORNING PRAYER

OFFERTORY HYMN ... "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" 114

OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor

OFFERTORY

LITANY OF PRAISE

LEADER: Almighty God, how can we keep from praising you?

PEOPLE: You spoke, and stars danced in the sky;

LEADER: You whispered, and snow fell gently in the night;

PEOPLE: You sang, and the Spirit breathed life into us.

LEADER: Yet, we allowed ourselves to be led into the wilderness of sin.

PEOPLE: So You sent the prophets to adorn us with your grace, but we ignored them.

LEADER: Then, in the fullness of time, You sent Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son. So, with all creation echoing the songs of angels, we join in praising your name:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who alone is exalted.

All creation rejoices in you.

Hosanna in the highest!

ANTHEM ... "Would I Miss the Miracle?" Choir

SERMON Pastor

CLOSING HYMN ... "Go Tell It on the Mountain" 143

BENEDICTION

SHARING LOVE AND PEACE

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Supper ... BREAKFAST

USHERS

TODAY..... Dwight Saunders’ Team

NEXT SUNDAY Nancy Ruppert’s Team

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

NURSERY

TODAY Alisa B and Mary Beth Mc.

TODAY Sharon B. and Jean M.

NEXT SUNDAY... Shannon and Jeff Robinson and Lesa Speer

PRAYER LIST

<i>Church family:</i> Wayne Abbott, Eddie and Sharon Reynolds, Katelyn Reynolds, Linda McNeill, Jack Boone, John & Alisa Beard, Karen Dailey, Barbara Lynthacum, Sarah Jo Wall, Florence Cagle, Karen Dailey, Carolyn Brown			Mary James	Benny McBride	friend
<i>At Home:</i> Helen Greene, Irene Warner			Butch/Nancy Jenkins	Bob Moore	nephew
<i>Friends and Relatives of:</i> Molly/Wayne Abbott			Candy Loflin	Pam, Ken Morgan	niece, nephew
	Monnie Jenkins	friend	Max/Jane Luquire	John Moore	Nancy’s father
	Tony Lawson	friend	Barbara Lynthacum	Jennifer Denning	Katie’s friend
	Toni Atcheson	sister		Cristie Thomas	friend
Jane Covington	Tammy Laprade	sister		Beth Holt	friend
	Faye Thomas	sister		Misty Morgan	friend.
	Pete Thomas	brother-in-law		Jo Brooks	friend
	Lee Kasik	grandson-in-law		J.D. Thompson	nephew
Ernest , Karen Dailey	Judy and Estella	daughters		Melissa Green	daughter
Mildred Grey	Ernestine Stevenson	friend		Carol Luther	friend
Garrett Gooch	Mary Chunn	grandmother		Tammy Parker	friend
Ray, Frances Hudson	Harold Johnson	daughter		Jesse Wallace	friend
Paul/Thelma Hussey	Meryl Johnson	brother		June Spears	friend
	Mildred Hunsucker	sister-in-law		Marie Spoon	sister
		friend		Laura Wilson	friend
				Doris Hinson	friend
			<i>Service Personnel:</i> Devin Hurley, Mark Davis, Dylan McCaskill, Christian Rush, Seth Spivey, Garrett Wallace, Chris Stuart		

Our Love and Sympathy...

to Florence and Jimmy Cagle and family at the loss of their son, Jimmy Cagle, Jr.