

The Order of Worship

December 24, 2011

5:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We welcome all to this service of worship, especially our visitors and guests. In the time before the service begins, we invite all who worship here to take a moment to offer a prayer lifting up to God the life and work of this family of faith and its pastors.

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME...

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Josef est bien marié

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

Joseph Has Married Well

Carol text: Joseph has married well, To the daughter of Jesse. This was good news For this girl and maiden To so become God's work. Joseph has married well.

Traditional

Rev. Dr. Buran F. Phillips

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

***HYMN NO. 31** (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Milam Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Will Bendy

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

***HYMN NO. 116** (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM...

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN NO. 44** (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2,6-7

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:1-6, 10-13

***HYMN NO. 40** (blue hymnal) Joy to the World!

Ellen Anderson

St. Louis

Aidan Sears

Eric Adamcik

Antioch

SCRIPTURE Titus 2:11-14

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

***HYMN NO. 41** (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful

JOHN 1:1-5,12-16

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Megan McClure

Ryan Rotella

Anna Milam

Adeste fideles

Buran Phillips

Buran Phillips

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE...

ANTHEM O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appear'd, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His Holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever praise we, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Placide Cappeau

trans. John Sullivan Dwight

Deborah Phillips, Soprano

Laura Dupper, Soprano

Joanne Bendy, Flute

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion by the method of intinction, where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread to dip into the cup. The ministers and ushers will direct you.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J. S. Bach

Come, Thou Savior of the Nations

(from the Leipzig Chorales)

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20

After the scripture is read, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The minister will then light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.

Joyce and Tim Ryan. In honor of Matthew, Tiffany, Chandler and Camryn Ryan
. . . and in honor of Lauren Ryan Bice, Brandon Bice and Josie Noelle Bice
Elizabeth and John Salsbery. In memory of Chris Salsbery
Julia Tortorelli. In honor of the marriage of her sister, Laura to Chris Martin
The Tortorelli Family. In memory of Alberta and William Bertelsen, Flora and Joseph Tortorelli
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser. In honor of Chloé and Lacey
. . . and in memory of Justine and George Dukas and Clovis and Gene Tragesser
Robin and Joe Ben Turner. In memory of Olga Wright
The Wiesehuegel Family. In loving memory of Tommy Cunningham, René Cordell,
. . . Mona Rowland and Shirley Rechenbach
John and Shirley Wittman. In honor of clergy and staff
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Chris Salsbery, Bob Cantrell and Barbara Schilling

NEWS FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

2012 FLOWER CALENDAR is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please remember to choose a date for 2012 in honor or memory of family or friends. A reminder card will be sent to you. We ask for a \$60.00 donation to the Flower Guild, payable on the date of your dedication. If you have any questions, contact the church office. If you're interested in joining the Flower Guild, please contact Linda Yates for details.

All Church Epiphany Party

Wednesdays With Westminster will kick off the new year of programs with an Epiphany Party for the whole church family on January 11, 2012. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts for the Christ Child, and the manifestation of Jesus as the light of the world. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m. and child care will be provided for children ages five and younger. *Come and let your light shine!*

THE DAVIDSON COLLEGE ORCHESTRA AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE will perform in our sanctuary on Saturday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will make plans to attend this wonderful concert. If you are interested in hosting one or more of these musicians in your home that night, please contact Carl Whipple.

Symbolism of the Lights

The significance of the Candlelight Service is twofold. First, in the distribution of the lights, we see dramatized before us the spreading of the Gospel Message and the growth of the church through the centuries. The pastor's candle is symbolic of Christ, the living Word, and is an extension of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. The ushers who carry the light to the congregation represent the Apostles whom Christ sent out to spread the Word and draw the world to Him. The church has grown because men and women and young people who have heard the Good News have been faithful in telling someone else about it, and this is symbolized by your passing the light to the person beside you. The ushers will light the candle closest to the aisle. As each candle bursts into flame and the sanctuary gradually brightens, we catch the significance of Jesus' statement that we are "the light of the world," and that we should spread this light to the "very ends of the world." Secondly, we find significance in the lights during the singing of the dedication hymn. During the singing of the first verse, we hold our lights close as we rededicate ourselves to Christ. As we sing the second verse, we hold the candle out in front of us as we rededicate our homes and families once again to him. During the last verse, we hold our candles high as we rededicate our part of His church here to the task of taking the Gospel Light to every corner of the earth. After the Benediction, please extinguish your light. Receptacles for the spent candles are located in the narthex.

Please use extreme caution in the handling of the lighted candles to prevent accidents with the hair or clothing of the person in front of you and the pews or carpet. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety's sake, it is requested that children under six should "share" their parents candle.

READERS: Aidan Sears, Eric Adamcik, Megan McClure, Will Bendy, Anna Milam, Ryan Rotella
USHERS: Emma Adamcik, Leah Milam, Delaney Sears, Savannah Lockwood, Maggie Bendy, Ruth Ann Bendy, Ellie Tidwell, Jake Tidwell, Max Yates
ELDERS: Laura Dupper, Dave Dupper, John Salsbery, Leslie Rotella, Michael Yates, Rob McKeehan, Bill Farnham

College Age/Young Adult Gathering

All college age/young adults are invited to come on Monday evening, December 26th at 6:00 p.m. to catch up with your WPC friends! Pizza, soft drinks and dessert will be provided. We'll look for you in the SHOW room!