

Celebration of Worship
The First Sunday After Christmas

December 31, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

*“Without the Way, there is no going;
Without the Truth, there is no knowing;
Without the Life, there is no living.”*
Thomas a Kempis

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *A Christmas Medley*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (responsively) *Based on Psalm 148*

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

All: Glory to God in the highest! Praise God, all the angels; praise God, all the heavenly hosts!

One: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

All: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind – Let them praise the name of the Lord!

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

All: Young women and young men alike, old and young together; we will praise the Lord!

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth peace, good will to all! God is with us. Christ is born! Alleluia!

* CAROL SING

(Choose your favorites that we missed this Advent/Christmas)

CONFESSING

Based on *Luke 22:51-55*

Leader: We have opposed your ways, O God.

**People: We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have avoided the hard truths of your prophets.**

Silence

Leader: Your Spirit reveals our inmost desires,

People: and we are pierced as with a sword.

Silence

Leader: Show us your mercy, O God,

People: and grant us your salvation.

Leader: By your light,

People: may we see light.

Silence

PARDONING AND GRACE

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and darkness does not overcome it. God's mercy is over all God's works. You are forgiven. Walk in the light of Christ.

People: You are forgiven. Walk in the light of Christ.

All: Glory to God! Amen!

Exchange the Peace of Christ with those around you.

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Father Time

Prayer

(Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

p. 833

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Sorting Through a Collection of Jesus

Pastor Larry De Vuyst

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

I believe that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God – the source of light and life. I believe that God sent Jesus Christ, as the Word incarnate, into this world so that all might be bathed in the light, that we might also have new life in him. I believe that the Word of God still speaks today to those who have ears and hearts to listen. I believe, with the power of the Holy Spirit, that my life can be a witness to God's living presence and grace. Amen.

- * HYMN *Song of Simeon* # 603
THE MORNING OFFERING
- OFFERTORY *Wexford Carol* Keveren
- * DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION
SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)
- * CAROL *Down to Earth, as a Dove* # 300
ANNOUNCEMENTS
- * SENDING FORTH
Pastor: You have seen the Savior. Go now in peace. Be Christ's
light to enlighten everyone that you meet, and let your life
reflect the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
All: Alleluia! Amen!
- * POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Smith