

The Order of Worship

December 14, 2008 - The Third Sunday of Advent

Minister: Rev. James Adams

Organist/Pianist: Debbie Mink

Lay Leader: Clark Allison

Nursery: Phyllis Shepherd

Music/Worship Director: Rebecca Haywood

Secretary: Vickie Ellis

Bold Print indicates a congregational response * Indicates to stand, if able

Gathering Before God

Introit

“Gloria”

Wesley Bells

(As you prepare for worship, please take this time to register your attendance with us today. If you are visiting today, please know that you are welcome and we would like to get to know you better. If you have any questions about our church, please speak to Rev. Adams after the service)

* Welcome

Light the lights! Set the candles aglow! The Promised One is coming!

Make us ready to receive your light, O Lord.

He will come to bring hope and freedom.

He will come to set free those who are oppressed.

The blind will see and those who are deaf will hear!

The Good News is God’s loving salvation through God’s own Son. AMEN.

* Opening Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* No. 220

*Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ, our Joy.

May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in the hope of our salvation.

Sung: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, will come to thee O Israel.

* Opening Prayer Rev. Adams

* A Time of Personal Greetings

Hearing God's Word

Children’s Song

“Deck the Halls & It’s Jesus”

Children’s Message

Debbie Walker

(Children will be dismissed for Children’s Church at this time)

Chorus of Preparation *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* (Chorus twice)

1st Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Doug Herman

Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28

(after the Scripture is read, the following response)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Today's Message

“And the Word Became?”

Rev. Adams

Responding to God

* An Affirmation of Faith

No. 888

Prayer of Confession

Lord of Light and Mercy, it is easy for us to get caught up in the various darknesses of our lives, the darkness of stress and expectation, the darkness of loneliness and alienation, the darkness of greed and selfishness, and the darkness of fear.

Break through the darkness and help us see your light. Let the light of your love show in our pathways as we learn again how to serve, how to wait, how to care for your people and your creation. Forgive us as we stumble and fall. Lift us up and place us back on your pathway. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

Silent Meditation - Pastoral Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

At the beginning of the prayer time, as the accompanist plays, you are invited to come to the altar and pray—alone or with Rev. Adams. If you would like for Rev. Adams to pray with you, simply turn your palms up.

Offertory

Were You There On That Christmas Night?

Wesley Bells

* Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 94

Going Forth to Serve God in the World

* Benediction and Sending Forth

* Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus”

Wesley Bells

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today:

10:55 Morning Worship

6:00 United Methodist Women

Tuesday, December 16

4:45 Community Youth Basketball League

Wednesday, December 17

5:00 Dinner; 6:00 Caroling; 7:00 Cookies & “Santa”

Thursday, December 18

10:00 Sewing Circle

4:45 Community Youth Basketball League

Saturday, December 20

9:00 Breakfast with Santa

Nursery Volunteer for Today, Dec. 14 – Julie Paxton

Nursery Volunteer for Sunday, Dec. 21 – Amy Burchett

Children’s Church for Today, Dec. 14 – Brad and Jenny Burchett

Children’s Church for Sunday, Dec. 21 – Christmas Party(all volunteers welcome)

Ushers for December – Frank Fitzpatrick, Tom Hereford, Rob Herrick, Tom Smith

Greeters for Today, Dec. 14– Joe and Amy Burchett

Greeters for Sunday, Dec. 21 – Roslyn Burchett, Gypsie Jones

Record of our Faithfulness: Sunday, Dec. 7 Morning Worship –101, Sunday

School-50.General Fund-\$2,944.00, needed weekly-\$4,798.00,General Fund Receipts as of 12/11/08-\$177,468.15; Budget as of 12/31/08- \$233,478.00. FLC Loan repayment-\$390.00, needed weekly-\$385.00,Thanksgiving offering - \$200.00; Amt. as of 12/07-\$5686.00; 2007 Apportionments- \$460.00, amount to date- \$7749.00

The United Methodist Women will have their Christmas party tonight at 6:00. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, dessert, or your favorite Christmas cookies! We will also have an ornament exchange. All ladies are welcome to attend. Come for a great time of fun and fellowship!

God’s Shepherds: At this most blessed time of the year we are asking for your help in providing Christmas for our children and mothers. Christ reminds us throughout His word to take care of his children. God has blessed us with this wonderful opportunity to do just that. With your help we can provide Christmas for our families who otherwise go without. Contact Julie Paxton, 886-6451, Betty Roberts, 886-2539 or Shyla Meece, 886-6650 for more info.

The Sewing Circle has pecans for sale again this year. The cost is \$8.00 per lb. Contact Phyllis Herrick or any member of the Sewing Circle.