

The Order of Worship

December 21, 2008 - The Fourth 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

Prelude

(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)

Choral Call to Worship *Come Into the Stable* Chancel Choir

* Welcome

God has come among us!

Mary, a young girl, said “yes” to God’s request.

Her faithfulness and willingness to be God’s servant speaks volumes in our time.

We are fearful; we need to be trusting.

Lord, place your healing hand on our hearts, and make us ready for your presence.

Heal our wounds, and cause us to be witnesses to your love. AMEN.

* Opening Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 196

*Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

As your Holy Spirit visited Mary, visit us too; and make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

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 Message Rev. Adams

(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: 2 Timothy 1:1-12 Rebecca Haywood

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38, 47-55

(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.

Special Music *Garrett & Gary Brown*

Today's Message “Trusting in the Lord” Rev. Adams

Responding to God

* An Affirmation of Faith No. 888

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we love to hear the story of Mary. We marvel that You would take a young woman from a small town to accomplish Your purposes. Too often, we have blotted out the possibility that You could use us to accomplish Your healing and hope. We think that we are unworthy and that You could surely seek someone else to do the work.

O God, break through our hard hearts! Choose us now to be witnesses and servants in this world. Lord, forgive us for our stubbornness, our faithlessness, our selfishness. Heal and restore us. 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 *He Is Born* Debbie Mink

* Doxology *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 94

Going Forth to Serve God in the World

* Benediction and Sending Forth

* Postlude

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today:

10:55 Morning Worship

SPRC meeting immediately after church

Wednesday, December 24

6:30 Christmas Eve Service

11:00 Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

office closed

Friday, December 26

office closed for Christmas

Nursery Volunteer for Today, Dec. 21 – Amy Burchett

Nursery Volunteer for Sunday, Dec. 28 – Kristin Garrett

Children's Church for Today, Dec. 21 – Christmas Party

Children's Church for Sunday, Dec. 28 – No Children's Church- Christmas Holiday

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

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

Greeters for Sunday, Dec. 28 – Paul Honeycutt & Chris Honeycutt

Record of our Faithfulness: Sunday, Dec. 14 Morning Worship –120, Sunday

School-46. General Fund-\$4,522.00, needed weekly-\$4,798.00, General Fund Receipts as of 12/14/08-\$181,590.15; Budget as of 12/31/08- \$229,084.60. FLC Loan repayment-\$190.00, needed weekly-\$385.00, 2007 Apportionments- \$10.00, amount to date- \$7759.00

On Wednesday, December 24, we will have two Christmas Eve services, 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. with Communion being served at both.

Please check your older pictures of the church looking for any photograph that might show the lights that hung in the sanctuary prior to 1971. If you should have such a photograph, please forward a copy of it to, or speak with Floyd Davis. The photograph is needed to document an historical essay he is writing.

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.