SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD’S DAY

**11:00 a.m. FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS December 26, 2021**

*“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the*

 *Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** Medley of Carols Joel Morehouse

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

 **\*CAROL OF ADORATION**  No. 143 *Tune:* REGENT SQUARE

 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

 **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the faithful to the holy child Jesus: we confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, nor trusted your good news. We have failed to praise your Son’s birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us a willing faith, so we may once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**PETITION** No. 121

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

 cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

 **\*GLORIA**  No. 134

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

 (Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers at this time.)

**INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN**

 **ANTHEM**  One Small Child David Meece

 Katy Keyes, soloist

 **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

O God, your Son Jesus was born in a common stable to claim all people as brothers and sisters in faith. Make us one with him, so that we may enjoy your love, and live to serve you as he did, who rules with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

 **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Page 246

 **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Luke 2:41-52 Page 59

 **SERMON** “The Work of Christmas Begins” Dr. Williams

 *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” Luke 2:52*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 **CAROLS OF THE SEASON**

Carol No. 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – stanzas 1,3

 Carol No. 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear – stanzas 1,5

 Carol No. 124 Still, Still, Still – stanzas 1,2

 **THE PRAYERS CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

 **\*HYMN** No. 147 *Tune:* THE FIRST NOWELL

The First Nowell

###### **\*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** No. 113

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\*POSTLUDE** Noel Suisse Louis-Claude Daquin

 **\***Congregation please stand.

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR** marks the beginning of the Lord’s Day service. The prelude is a time for quiet preparation and private prayer as the congregation prepares to worship God.

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP** is Stuart Williams, who is a first-year student in The Master of Divinity degree program at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology.

**THE GUEST ORGANIST IS** Joel Morehouse. Susan Wilson is away this week.

**THERE WILL BE** no Handbell Choir, Handbell Quartet or Chancel Choir rehearsals this coming week.

**GREETER:**  Charlotte Keenoy…**USHERS:** Rich Wittish, head usher; Howard Crawford, and Pascal Binda... **EXTENDED SESSION TEACHERS:** Whitney Peteranetz, Maggie McManus, Jane Sparks and William Sparks.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday, December 26 9:30 a.m………………………………...No Sunday School Classes

 10:30 a.m…………………………………………Coffee Fellowship

 11:00 a.m…………………………………………...Worship Service

Monday, December 27 ……………………………………………...Office Closed

Thursday, December 30 8:00 p.m………………………………………………..AA Meeting

Friday, December 31 10:00 a.m………………………………….Centering Prayer, Library

A Prayer for Christmas

 O Lord, our God! Our years come and go. We ourselves live and die. But thou art forever. Thy kingdom and thy faithfulness, thy righteousness and thy mercy are without beginning and end. Thou art likewise the origin and destination of our lives. Thou art the judge of our thoughts, words and deeds.

 We acknowledge with contrite hearts today that we have so often forgotten thee, denied thee, offended thee. And yet we are comforted and enlightened anew by thy assurance that thou art our Father and we are thy children, because thy dear son Jesus Christ was made man, died and rose for us, and is our brother.

 We give thee thanks that we may once more announce and hear these glad tidings on this last Sunday of the year. Make us free, O Lord, to say what is right and rightly to receive it, that this hour may further thy glory and the peace and salvation of us all. Amen. –Karl Barth, 1886-1968