

December 20, 2009 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

O Come, Let Us Adore Him
Chancel Bells

arr. Arnold Sherman

*Call to Worship

Glenn Williams, Sunday School Superintendent

Leader: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship; in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

People: **This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.**

Leader: Before God's strength and power, we bow down; in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgment.

People: **This is our home, where our lives are redirected. Surely God will show us new ways to live.**

Leader: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts; in humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.

People: **This day God is present with us; we feel it. Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.**

*Hymn No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6)

Adestes Fidele

Invocation

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

Let your face shine on us, mighty God. Break through the obstacles that keep us from seeing your way. Melt down the barriers that keep us from knowing the embrace of your love. Remove from us the low self-esteem that keeps us from valuing the overwhelming gift of life that you entrust to us. Speak to us here in life-changing accents. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Harley Family

All: O God, come, travel with us through Advent.
Give us the courage to spread love in the world. Amen.

Advent Wreath Carol

A Candle Is Burning

see insert

Personal Witness

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Page 1059 (OT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Christmas Jubilation
Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin

Pastoral Prayer

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology No. 238** (refrain only)

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Children's Message

Jessica Morris

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn No. 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

***Affirmation of Faith No. 881**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Gloria Patri No. 70**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

†*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

Page 69 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"What DID Mary Know?"

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

***Hymn No. 246**

Joy to the World

Antioch

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response 251** (refrain only)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

***Postlude**

†Sermon Text

****Please stand if you are able***

Nursery Provided