

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 24, 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**OPENING RESPONSE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 96)

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!"

**Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.**

Then all the trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the Lord;

**For the Lord is coming to judge the world with righteousness and his people with is truth.**

\* HYMN "Once In Royal David's City" 49

Advent Candle Lighting –The Candle of Love

Congregational Response: verse 4, "Now It's Time to Light the Candle"

(to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

**"Now it's time to light the candle, Shining love in Jesus name.**

**When all people join together Earth will never be the same.**

**Light will overcome the darkness: Be the love the Christ Child brings."**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

**O God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You send forth your Spirit, yet we ignore your guidance. Christ dwells among us, but we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Angels herald good tidings while we condone evil deeds. Forgive our deliberate misuse of your graciousness, and make us worthy to receive Christ in our lives.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:2-7

\* HYMN "What Child Is This" 53

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14

**SERMON** "People Who Walked In Darkness" Rev. Janell Blair

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from Philippians 2

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER** (debts, debtors)

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

\* HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" 28

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand**

**Welcome:** To all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!

**Announcements:** Our Service of Candlelight and Communion begins this evening at 5:00pm. "Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!"

The church office will be closed December 25-29 for the Christmas holiday and Monday January 1, on New Year's Day. We wish you and yours joy at this blessed season.

December 31, New Year's Eve, is also a Sunday and we will worship at our usual time, 10:30a.m., but worship will include a New Year's twist!

**Birthdays:** December 30 – Nancy Gilliam.

**Anniversaries:** No Anniversaries this week.

**Flowers:** Don Thompson, purchased flowers this week.

**Refreshments:** \_\_\_\_\_, provided refreshments for the Congregation today.

**Newsletter:** Deadline to submit articles and information for February newsletter is **January 22, 2018**. If you have an article or announcement please turn it in to Silvia or slip it under the door to her office.

**Pastor: Rev. Janell Blair (361) 920-2492**

**Pianist: Marilyn Pearce**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9: 30 a.m. Sunday School – Upstairs Parlor      Sunday School - Room 104 Ed. Wing  
10: 1 0 a.m. Fellowship Time – Southeast Vestibule      **Session Meets** – January 14, 2018.  
10: 30 a.m. Morning Worship

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