

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 31, 2017**  
**First Sunday After Christmas Day**

**PRELUDE**

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

**OPENING RESPONSE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 148)

All God's people—boys and girls, men and women: Come and worship!

**Shepherds, wise ones, saints and angels: Come and worship!**

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**Come and worship! Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #41**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. The year is now spent. We have wasted much time doing things that displease you, when we ought to have lived according to your will. We leave much undone. We think of ourselves before others; we serve our own needs. We keep for ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. We fail to announce the new life you offer to all. Forgive our sins and make us more faithful. As we begin a new year, help us to use our time wisely as we follow Christ's way.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE #40**

“Joy To The World!” (v. 1)

**CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO THE PROPHET**

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #44** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vv. 1, 3)

**CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL**

JOHN 1:10-14

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #31** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vv. 1-3)

**CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL**

LUKE 2:22-40

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #22** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vv.1,3,4)

**THE GIFTS OF THE NEW YEAR/EPIPHANY STARS**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #29** “Go, Tell It On The Mountain”

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (adapted from Howard Thurman poem)

When the song of the angels is stilled,

**When the star in the sky is gone,**

When the kings and princes are home,

**When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of  
Christmas begins:**

To find the lost, to heal the broken,

**To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,**

To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,

**To make music in the heart. Amen.**

## 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:** Happy New Year! May 2018 bring our world a blessing of peace.

Janell will be on vacation January 2-10. In an emergency, please call the church office or an elder. Next Sunday Elder, Bill Quarles will be preaching. Come worship, and offer your support to our guest.

Sunday, January 21 we will have our annual meeting following worship, with a afterwards.

**Birthdays:** January 5 – Patty Kasch.

**Anniversaries:** January 3 – Carroll and Rosa Pace.

**Flowers:** No Flowers were purchased this week.

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

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

**Pianist: Marilyn Pearce**



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