**Tuesday, December 25, 2018 10:00 am**

Christmas Day

**Prelude** *Shepherds’ Lullaby Gilbert Martin*

*Please stand as you are able*

**Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 98

Sing to God something brand new!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

God has not forgotten to love us all!

**Even the ends of the earth have heard!**

Make a joyful noise!

**Break forth in song!**

With strings and horns,

**sing praise to the Holy One!**

With the roaring seas and everything in it!

**With all the land and everything in it!**

The floods clap their hands.

**The hills sing for joy.**

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

**Justice for everyone, everything fair.**

Sing to God something brand new!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

**OPENING HYMN** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* (ELW 268)  
 vs 1, 2, 6, 14

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,

the Word made flesh,

the Power of the Most High,

☩ one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered in the name of Jesus,

let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Gracious God,

**In Christ Jesus you come among us**

**as light shining in darkness.**

**We confess our failure to welcome this light.**

**Forgive us and renew our hope,**

**so that we may live in the light of your grace,**

**and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people;

to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Your sins are forgiven in ☩ Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

**And also with you.**

*You may be seated.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Alan J. Higbee

**FIRST LESSON Isaiah 62:6-12**

*The reading may be found on page 679 in the pew Bible or*

*on page 824 in the Sunday School Connect Bible.*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

*The reading concludes*

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON Titus 3:4-7**

*The reading may be found on page 1087 in the pew Bible or*

*on page 1390 in the Sunday School Connect Bible.*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,

not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The reading concludes*

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)**

**THE GOSPEL Luke 2:8-20**

*The reading may be found on page 933 in the pew Bible or*

*on page 1160 in the Sunday School Connect Bible.*

*The Gospel is introduced*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

*The Gospel concludes*

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Away in a Manger* (ELW 278)

*Please stand as you are able*

**Nicene Creed** (ELW p. 104)

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Created in the image and likeness of God, we pray for the light of life in all people, for new birth among us and for communities that long for new life.

You, O God, form your church as the body of Christ. Reshape our hearts to know your grace, open our vision to see your truth, and make our mouths ready to proclaim your glory.   
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You speak, and the creation comes into being. Call us by a new word to live in harmony with the fragile planet that is our common home.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You announce peace and salvation to all the earth. Inspire our leaders, particularly President Trump, Governor Kasich, our congressional representatives in Washington and Columbus, our Mayors and local government leaders and our Bishops, Elizabeth Eaton and Abraham Allende, inspire them to find achievable paths toward greater comfort, justice, and peace.Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Your years never end. Sustain those whose increasing years make them weary, console the young who have already known struggle, and protect newborns whose years are just beginning.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Your voice resounds among us. Give sufficient breath and abundant resilience to those who lead our praises in these festive days, particularly our choirs, soloists, and music director, Alan Higbee.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You are changeless from generation to generation. Anoint us with the oil of gladness and number us with your saints, who with angels and archangels know you and your majesty to be boundless love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.  
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Offertory** *He Shall Feed His Flock* Hannah Lewis, Mezzo

*G. F. Handel* Isaac Lewis, Treble

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time

your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,

you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness

and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,

we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,

that, held and nourished by you,

we may live as your children,

shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

**Amen**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.  
Come, behold and receive your God.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*You may be seated.*

**Communion**

*All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.    
Come and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,   
trusting it is given****for you*** *for the forgiveness of sins.*

*We offer bread and gluten free wafers, red wine and white grape juice.  
If you would prefer to receive a blessing only,   
simply cross your arms over your chest as the pastor comes to you.*

**COMMUNION SONGS**

*Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

*Please stand as you are able*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

On this day, O God, you gave us

Christ the Son to save us.

As you sent the one foretold,

send us now with good news for all people.

Let the gladness of this feast have no end

as we share with others the joy that fills us;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his incarnation

has filled us with grace and truth,

give you peace this Christmas and always.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)

**DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God’s people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *On this Day Earth Shall Ring Robert Powell*