

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2006

11:00 AM

A nursery is available during the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.

Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available upon request from an usher.

PRELUDE *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* arr. Wagner
Please take this time to silently prepare yourself to worship God.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT *Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting* Stensrud/Christopherson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Kaufman Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Geoff Gregg, Liturgist

Liturgist: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for the Lord has come to the Lord's people to set them free

People: **By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

Liturgist: To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

People: **and to guide our feet in the way of peace.**

Liturgist: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

***HYMN No. 11** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

***CONFESSION OF SIN** (*In Unison*)

Holy Savior, Jesus Christ, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. But who can endure the day of your coming? We confess you as Lord, yet our paths remain crooked, our ways, rough. Show us the tender mercy of our God; break in upon us from your holy heights. Refine us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may live as people of light, and walk in ways of peace, to your glory and praise.

(Let each worshipper pray silently.)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI** (*The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 579*)

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.

Old Testament LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 (Pew Bible, OT Section, page 838)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Carol of the Advent* arr. Dietterich

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 181)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN No. 13** *Prepare the Way*

SERMON LESSON: Luke 3:1-6 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 54)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Prolegomena"

Rev. Jonathan Fettig

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – (*In Unison*)

Apostles' Creed (traditional)
The Presbyterian Hymnal p. 14

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *How Far Is It in Bethlehem?* arr. Wagner

***PRESENTATION**, The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 592*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***HYMN No. 1** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Sortie Festivo* L. Boslet

***Those who are able, please stand**

MUSICAL NOTES

The Choral Introit, *Come Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting*, written by Helen Stensrud and Dorothy Christopherson and published by the Choristers Guild. This simple invitation speaks to our Lord, and asks Him to come again and be present in our hearts this Advent.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are waiting, be our guest this Advent day.
Longing hearts watch eagerly for Jesus, who comes in love.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready, be our guest this Advent day.
Loving hearts we have prepared for Jesus, who gives us peace.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are telling, be our guest this Advent day.
Joyful voices sing in praise of Jesus, who brings us joy.

Come, Lord Jesus, we are praying, be our guest this Advent day.
Hopeful hearts find room for you. Come Jesus, and be our Guest.

The Anthem, *Carol of the Advent*, is based upon the writings of Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). She is most recognized for her famous text, *Morning Has Broken*, but also her nursery rhythms and singing games for children. Farjeon was born in London and at seventeen became Roman Catholic. She considered her faith a progression toward which her spiritual life moved rather than a conversion experience. When paired with the old Besançon Carol tune, and arranged by Philip Diettrich, this wintry text calls up all of us to be ready for the One who is coming into all of our hearts yet again.

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are froz'n, He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

A NOTE OF THANKS, to all who made the Vintage Voices Concert such a success last Sunday afternoon! The singers truly enjoyed themselves and are planning to return soon for another concert. How wonderful! My thanks to...

- ♪ Those who remained after worship to help move and setup
- ♪ Ike Gibler for running the sound table and all the other setup, etc.
- ♪ Ellen Eastman and Nancy Meloy, for your greeting excellence.
- ♪ Barb Reitsma, for stuffing all of the programs.
- ♪ Jan Watson, the coffee expert.
- ♪ Karen Wilson, for kitchen help and clean-up.
- ♪ Everyone who took time to spend an hour of their time in support of *Sundays in the Sanctuary*.

“HERE WE COME A-CAROLING”.....

It has come to the attention of some of our resident musicians, that there are many who are in need of a little ‘musical cheer’ this holiday season. On Sunday, December 17 you are invited to join in an evening of Christmas Caroling to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Those wishing to carol will gather in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the Festival of Lessons and Carols, for a light meal and then head out to spread the joy of the holiday season. If you are aware of anyone who might benefit from a visit from this “Merry Band” or for more information, please see Miriam King or Rick Spearman following worship today. You may also reach Miriam at 393-2451. Help us spread the joy and peace of Christmas!