

9:00 a.m.

Early Service

December 21, 2014

*Welcome to the Early Service. Together, may we rejoice and give thanks for God's loving grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. You will find the worship songs for this service in the green songbook, **Sing! A New Creation** and the blue **Presbyterian Hymnal**.*

Entering God's Presence **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** arr. David Nevue

***We Have Come Into This House** WORSHIP HIM

(Verse 1) *We have come into this house to gather in His name and worship Him. (repeat)*
We have come into this house to gather in His name and worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

(Verse 2) *So forget about yourself, concentrate on Him and worship Him. (repeat)*
So forget about yourself, and concentrate on Him and worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

***Expressing Our Joy**

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.

People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.

People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.

***Hymn 23** (Blue Hymnal) **Angels We Have Heard on High** GLORIA

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Jesus, God's own Son, you came to earth as a child, to be cradled in our hearts; however, we are unwilling guardians, unprepared to love one who makes demands on us at all hours. You ask that we receive God's love as a child, with trust and joy, but we are too grown up to love without calculating the cost of friendship. As you lived out your youth in Nazareth, maturing in grace and wisdom, you bid us realize that our lives are not yet complete. We confess our reluctance to admit that we yet have growing to do. Merciful God, forgive us. Help us to become as children: astonished at grace, accepting of love, and hungry for spiritual growth.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Congregational Response **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** (Hymn No. 376, Verse 1)

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Reassurance of God's Forgiveness

Life in the Community

***Hymn 44** (Blue Hymnal) **O Little Town of Bethlehem** ST. LOUIS

Numbers 6:22-27 (RSV) [You will find the text on page 119 in the pew Bible.]

Luke 2:8-20 (RSV) [You will find the text on page 54-55 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon **Peace and Quiet** The Rev. Vance E. Polley

Response to God's Grace: Dedicating Our Lives, Gifts, and Tithes

Offertory

(You are invited to bring your offering to God forward and place it on the Communion Table at the front of the sanctuary. You may come down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.)

***Song No. 219** (Green Songbook) **We Give You Thanks** (Sing twice) LOCKWARD

We give you thanks. We give you praise.

For you are kind, you are love, you are God!

We give you thanks.

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn 38** (Blue Hymnal) **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** CAROL

***Blessing**

***Going Out into the World** **Joy to the World** arr. David Nevue

***All those who are able, please stand.**