

Order of Worship

December 3, 2017

10:00 am

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

Joe DeGrande

***CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Lord, awaken us from sleep, on this beautiful December day.

People: Raise our weary bodies and fill us with hope.

Leader: Give us your peace and understanding! Give us the willingness to believe in the story of your divine love.

People: We are here, O Lord, because of the promises given to our ancestors. Let them be remembered and enriched in the celebration of birth of Jesus Christ.

Leader: God's promise is kept each Sunday. For when we worship the Spirit of God, Christ dwells within us and around us.

***OPENING HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH # 140

INVOCATION

Joe DeGrande

Leader: O Holy God, we celebrate the mystery of your eternal word. From the messages of the angels and the witness of shepherds, Advent comes to us in Spirit and in Truth.

People: Instill in us, O Lord a sense of mystery and wonder as we await the child born in a manger. Open our hearts! Awaken us to your love! Reveal to us your Wisdom and mercy! Heal our families and save the world for violence and destruction. In the name of the Christ we pray. Amen

Advent Candle Lighting-The Phillips Family

Reader 1: Today is the beginning of Advent. It is the time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Reader 2: We are here because of God's promises to us. We live in the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of God through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Reader 3: To celebrate Jesus' coming, we light the first candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world *candle]*

All Readers: With the coming of this light there is hope among us. Hope that the world will be changed and that peace will come among us all, through the grace and love of God.

RESPONSE: We thank you dear God for your faithfulness to us. Help us to trust in you. Help us to know that your promises are kept and that you alone are the source of strength and wisdom. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [in unison]

Rev. David F. Hurst

O Holy One, Creator and Advocate, guide us in this challenging and scary world. Open our hearts that he might love a little more, share generously with those in need and be a friend and confidant to those who are alone. Forgive us when we turn away. Forgive us when he lack the courage to help. Give a sense of peace so that we can make amends and be truly forgiven.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all transgressions.

People: Thanks be to God

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE

Psalter Reading: Psalm 80 (UMH pgs. 801-802)

Dot Lambert

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. David F. Hurst

Pastoral Prayers:

The Lord's Prayer

***Response "Glory Be to the Father"

"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.Amen"

Scripture Reading

First Lesson: Isaiah 64: 1-9 (chair Bible OT pg 694)

Dot Lambert

***Hymn of Preparation "At the Name of Jesus"

UMH # 168

Second Lesson: Matthew 13:24-37

Rev. David F. Hurst

(chair NT Bible pgs 14 & 15)

Sermon: "Watch! Wait! Prepare"

Rev. David F. Hurst

Ministry of Giving

***Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; Praise Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts; Praise the Spirit! Holy Sprit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

(please be seated)

Thanksgiving and Sacrament of Holy Communion

We celebrate an open Communion Table

All are welcome at the Lord's Table

*****PARTING HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH # 196**

BENEDICTION

Leader: Beyond the darkness, there is a star.

People: Behind the rush, there is a wondrous silence. May God touch your lives with hints of the holy night.

POSTLUDE

*(***indicates to stand if able)*

If you have a need for an appointment with Rev. David and/or if you know of anyone in a hospital or someone who might need a visit, please do not hesitate to call him at: 1-413-426-6041 (c) or email him at: dfhurst@verizon.net

The flower arrangement on the organ is given to day by Rebecca Parsons in memory of her mother Ruth.

Please be sure to place your Christmas Sunday Flower Order with Virginia Ahart as soon as possible. The gold order form is inserted with this bulletin. The deadline for orders is next Sunday, December 10th.

This Week of December 3rd

Today, December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

Today, December 3rd - Bible Study - 11:15am - Pastor's Office

Today, December 3rd - Grace church youth - 12:15 - 2:30pm (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, December 6th - Bridge Club - Noon - 5pm (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, December 6th - Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 6th - Heart of the Valley Chorus Rehearsal -
6:30 - 9:30pm (fellowship hall)

Thursday, December 7th - Card making with Kathy Mantler - Noon
(fellowship hall)

Next Week of December 10th

Sunday, December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10th - Celebration of December Birthday's

Sunday, December 10th - Bible Study - 11:15am - Pastor's Office

Sunday, December 10th - Grace church youth - 12:15 - 2:30pm
(fellowship hall)

Wednesday, December 13th - Bridge Club - noon-5pm (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, December 13th - Heart of the Valley Chorus Rehearsal -
6:30 - 9:30pm (fellowship hall)