



**SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation. Christ has come to make us heirs of God’s promises.

**People: God commanded, and we were created. We are children of the Most High.**

Leader: Praise God from the heights of heaven. Praise God, all people of the earth.

**People: God opens our eyes to see the light. We will be called by a new name.**

Leader: Men and women, youth and aged, sing of God’s glory; shout your praise.

**People: God has made us heirs of promise. We will praise God’s holy name.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN**

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

No. 146

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with you. We think we know, better than you, what is best for us. Forgive our arrogance. Help us to see the Christ. Amen.

*(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Rejoice in God! Exalt God’s name! You will be clothed with garments of salvation. They will fit you better than anything you have known. The robes of righteousness are not heavy burdens, but offer a freedom you have not felt before. You will become a crown of beauty, a new creation, in the hands of a loving God. Friends, believe the good news...

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*(Please share a sign of peace with others.)*

**ANTHEM**

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-5

**SERMON**

*“The Faith to take a Journey”*

Rev. John Pruitt

**\*HYMN**

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

No. 128

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*“The Apostles’ Creed”*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN**

*“What Child Is This”*

No. 145

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**GOOD MORNING!** We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Today** 10:30a Worship Service  
(12/31)

**Mon** *New Year's Day*  
(01/01) Church Offices Closed

**Tue** 9:00a Bulletin Information Due  
(01/02) 10:00a FPC Staff Meeting  
5:00p Weight Watchers  
7:30p W&M Committee Meeting

**Wed** 9:00a Weight Watchers  
(01/03) 9:30a Men's Bible Study

**Thu** 11:30a PGA Luncheon at The Olympic  
(01/04) 1:30p S&F Committee Meeting

**Fri** No Scheduled Church Activities  
(01/05)

**Sat** 8:30a Women's Bible Study  
(01/06) Men's Bible Study

**Sun** 9:00a Café Faith  
(01/07) 9:30a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship Service

**Financial Update can be found  
on the bulletin board.**

**Serving Today (Dec 31)**

Greeters: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

**Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 14, 2018**

**Annual Meeting of the Corporation**

**Election of the  
President of the Corporation**

**Approval of Terms of Call**

**Presentation of 2018 Budget**

**Leadership Training  
Saturday, January 13, 2018**

**for all  
Session Members & Committee Chairs**

**Save Your Newspapers**

**The EGGS are coming!**

**PGA Luncheon**

**Thursday, January 4, 2018  
11:30 a.m. at The Olympic Restaurant**

**Serving Next Sunday, (Jan 7)**

Greeters: Anne Waddell, Dale Watts  
Ushers: Millie Vernon  
Lay Reader: Nancy Bolen

