

Christmas Day *The Festival of the Incarnation*

December 25, 2015

SERVICE NOTES:

- Please note the Psalm of the Day is Psalm 98. The congregation will sing Hymn #62 "Joy to the World".
 - Please note the Scripture readings are printed on the back of the service folder.
 - The following psalms in the front of the hymnal (page 64f) will aid you in your meditation before receiving the Lord's Supper: Psalms 34, 42-43, 51, 84, 116, 150. Prayers for preparation for worship are on pages 10 and 11 in the hymnal. A form for preparation for Communion is on page 156.
 - Also mark page 24 so that you are prepared for the close of the liturgy.
- Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. Our guests are kindly asked to note that it is our practice to first become a member of our communion fellowship before communing with us. Please speak to our pastor about becoming a member of our communion fellowship.

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THE DIVINE SERVICE (p.15) - The Service of Preparation

Before the service begins, an usher will light the Advent wreath candle of CHRIST. "Light the Candle" will be sung:

Light the candle of CHRIST today, the Giver of light is here!
Welcome the light we grope and sigh for, but only Christ can give.
Flicker and flame and glow with light, light up the world around you.
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THE PROCESSION *(Please Stand)*

(It is customary to face the processional cross during the procession)

THE HYMN – #55 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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The Service of the Word

FIRST READING – Isaiah 52:7-10

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 98 – Hymn #62 "Joy to the World"

SECOND READING –Hebrews 1:1-9

VERSE OF THE DAY – Alleluia! When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL – John 1:1-14

(Read from the nave to symbolize Christ dwelling among his people)

NICENE CREED

THE CHIEF HYMN - #35 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

THE SERMON

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OFFERING & OFFERING ANTHEM – "Light of the World"

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The glory of heaven has come to earth; the Light of the world is Jesus.
Rejoice in the hope of the Savior's birth; the Light of the world is Jesus.
One Light in the darkness, one light for the world to see, one light for eternity.
Oh, the Light of the world is Jesus.

There is a candle in the darkest shadow. There is a star that leads the world to life.

Lord of creation, God of salvation, you are the Everlasting Light!

Arise and shine for your Light has come. The Light of the world is Jesus.
Rejoice in all that the Lord has done; the Light of the world is Jesus.

One Light in the darkness, one light for the world to see, one light for eternity.
Oh, the Light of the world is Jesus. Jesus is the Light of the world; he is the Light.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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The Service of Holy Communion

THE SACRAMENT (p. 21f)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#38 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

THE THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION (p. 25)

OFFICIANTS:

Preacher & Celebrant: Rev. Paul Schaefer
Communion Assistants: Mark Castellese and Ron Bude
Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi
Soloists: Joan Kalish