Hearing God’s Call to Become Community

Prelude
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” # 148

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn of Gathering “Angels We Have Heard on High” # 155

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains

REFRAIN: Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? REFRAIN:

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth. Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heaven and earth. REFRAIN:

4. See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend you aid, while our hearts in love we raise. REFRAIN:

Seeking God’s Mercy and Pardon

*Responsive Call to Worship John 1: 1-5, 9-14 8:30am-Don Aye / 10:30am Roy McLellan

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. C: He was in the beginning with God.

L: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being C: in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

L: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. C: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

L: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. C: He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

L: But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, C: who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

ALL: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Proclaiming and Hearing the Word

Ephesians 1: 3-14 (NRSV)

The Text

Message “The Greatest Sentence Ever Written” Rev. Schwartz

Time for Giving

Call for Our Offerings 8:30am-Don Aye / 10:30am Roy McLellan

Doxology “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #46

Prayer of Dedication

Receiving the Visible and Tangible Signs of God’s Grace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational/Pastoral Prayer

8:30am-Don Aye / 10:30am Roy McLellan

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion Meditation and Invitation

8:30am-Don Aye / 10:30am Roy McLellan

Communion Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” # 164

Departing to Serve Where God Leads

Closing Hymn “Once in Royal David’s City” # 165

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew, he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child who seemed so helpless lives and reigns in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*Benediction

Rev. Schwartz

Postlude “I Saw Three Ships”
Ephesians 1: 3-14  (NRSV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: These are Words from the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!