

P O M P T O N R E F O R M E D C H U R C H

Our Vision: A world where all experience and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

January 7, 2018

(*Please stand if you are able)

10:00 a.m.

... THE APPROACH TO GOD...

Prelude

Greeting/Advent Candle/Prayer

***Opening Hymn # 181 (Blue)** *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate creator, you accept us with our limitations. Even when we succumb to temptation, you are waiting to renew us. Knowing that your renewing love is here at this communion service, we bring before you our secret hopes, the encouraging words we wish we had said, our missed opportunities for hugs, our missed investments in some loving deed which could have motivated and inspired. We know you can open new vistas of opportunity when we tell you of our vulnerabilities and let you envision possibilities for fulfillment in our lives. So we open ourselves to commune with you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

John 1:1-17

The Word (Christ) was with God and was God. In him was life, and the life enlightened all people. The light shines in the darkness, and darkness cannot overcome it. And this Word (Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

God's Way of Living

Isaiah 9:6,7 (CEV)

A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.

His power will never end; peace will last forever. He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong. He will always rule with honesty and justice. The LORD All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

Choral Response # 114 (Green)

Jesus Name Above All Names

Ministry of Music

"This We Believe"

J. Althouse

Church Life

Young Disciples' Time

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn # 150 (Blue) *What Child is This* v. 1 & 3

*Doxology # 808 (Blue) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Offering Prayer

...THE WORD OF GOD...

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-15

Sermon Title: "A Guide for Life"

...OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD...

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

**he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.**

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory

to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

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Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – see insert

Communion Hymn # 776 (Blue) *Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees*

If you have a heart for Christ, we invite you to participate with us. We are served where we are seated and we hold the element until we can all eat and drink together. We serve grape juice rather than wine.

Prayer Requests

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn # 772 (Blue)** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

***Benediction**

Postlude

Following Worship please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Leader: Pastor Mel Van Hattem
Liturgist: Nancy Begin
Music Director: Patricia Kitchell
Organist: Scott Burzynski
Bell Choir Director: Janine Maletsky
Nursery Caregivers: Abigail Wyckoff and Christin Warner

Ushers: Elaine Peacock, Kathy Mydosh, Jo Ann Sisco, Keith Hanisch, Tom Hanisch, Skyler Hanisch.

Today's Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-15 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[h] got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."