

Sunday, January 4, 2015

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

PRELUDE: Song of the Angels.....arr. Anna Laura Page

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times.

People: His praise shall ever be in my mouth.

Pastor: I will glory in the Lord. Let the humble hear and rejoice. Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord.

All: Let us exalt His name together.

*CAROL 173

As with Gladness

Dix

CALL TO PRAYER, PRAYER, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Eternal God, Your everlasting mercy rises in the mornings of another year. Give us grace to be honest with ourselves, honest about our past failures and honest before You. Give us grace to arise with Christ who is the bright morning star. In these early days of this new year of our life's journey, may we walk by faith in Him, draw mightily from Your gifts of inner strength, love and wisdom, and persevere to the end, knowing that we do Your will... (moment of silent reflection)

Pastor: Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

People: Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 1:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Christmas Medley.....arr. Patricia Sanders
B Lochte, Katherine & Michael Edwards, handbells

GOSPEL LESSON

St. Matthew 2: 1- 12

*HYMN 276

We Gather Together

Kremser

SERMON:

OUR APPEAL TO WISDOM

Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

A GRAND AND GLORIOUS HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE HERE TODAY

MAY GOD BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT 2015 WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND GOOD HEALTH, AND NOT LEAST GOD'S LOVE AND GOD'S WISDOM.

WE DO WELCOME EVERYONE TO WORSHIP TODAY. We are an open community committed to making everyone feel securely at home. It is part of our calling to make God happy in our caring and our sharing.

EVERYONE PRESENT TODAY IS INVITED to participate in Holy Communion regardless of church background or affiliation. Home Communion is also available to those confined to home or hospital. Please let our pastor, Rev. Ernest Smart, know of such needs.

WE WELCOME BACK Beau Lochte, artistic director and founder, and the Charm City Bronze Handbell Ensemble, who will provide our music today.

LOOKING BACK TO OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON AND SERVICES, we are especially grateful to all those who contributed to the spirit of Christmas worship, the gifts of music under Patti Amato's magnificent leadership, the gifts of time and talents, and not least the generous financial encouragement. All this has enabled us to support our many mission projects.

OUR MISSION COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 1:30 P.M. here at church. Anyone interested in expanding our programs will be most welcome to come with ideas.

MISSION PROJECT FOR ART WITH A HEART. This is a wonderful program to support children with disabilities. This will be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We are inviting as many people as possible to sign up on the sheet on the lounge piano. Barbara Pour has more details.

OUR NEXT P&R MEETING (PLANNING AND REVIEW) will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. here at church. This is an open meeting to which all are invited to hear and see financial reports, past, present and future plans, plus reports of our several committees.

WHAT DOES EPIPHANY MEAN? The word 'Epiphany' is derived from a Greek word meaning "Manifestation" or "showing forth." For centuries the Festival of Epiphany (celebrated January 6) recalled the visit of the Magi or the Wise Men, to the child Jesus, manifesting Christ's glory to the whole world.

PASTORAL NEEDS? Please do not hesitate to contact our pastor, Ernest Smart, either for yourself or someone you know. Best contact number is 410-893-9470.

Thought for the Week Ahead:

"None of us knows what is ahead...The important thing is to use today wisely and well, and face tomorrow eagerly and cheerfully and with the certainty that we shall be equal to what it brings. -Channing Pollock