

December 25, 2011

10:30 a.m.

(* Denotes the congregation should stand if able)

PRELUDE CHRISTMAS MEDLEY - RINEHART

*CHORAL INTROIT

CHOIR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

(PLEASE SIGN AND PASS THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER.)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

"Lift Up Your Heads"

#8v. 1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Seefeldt - Roki Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: The splendor of God has been revealed among us. A child has come to change all our ways.

People: We who have walked in the shadows have seen the light. We have given up the unnecessary burdens we carry.

Leader: Authority has been assigned to the Wonderful Counselor. Peace and justice will prevail through eternity.

People: We will leave judgment to God, whose equity we trust. We are free to rejoice in the beauty God reveals.

Leader: Worship the One who breaks yokes and frees us. Great is our God, and greatly to be praised.

People: Let the heavens be glad, and let earth rejoice. We are ready to declare God's marvelous works.

*OPENING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#28

"What Child Is This"

#53

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist

The coming of Christmas challenges all our pretensions. We who have sought to organize and manage the world through our finite understandings are confronted with the wonder of Bethlehem. A baby carries God's revelation, and we are convicted of our neglect. Let us seek to reclaim God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

Awesome God, we confess our fears to let down our guard, to feel the wonder, to believe the good news. Why would love choose to live among us, who are so unloving in our words and deeds? Why would you choose to place Trusting Innocence in the hands of sinners like us? We are afraid to bow down, lest we be accused of sentimental weakness. We hesitate to embrace the joy lest it turn to disappointment in the cruel realities of this world. Forgive us, God, and awaken the child within us, we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

(Time of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LITURGIST

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all who believe. Jesus Christ has come to us as God's gift. In Christ, we are redeemed from iniquity and purified to live as God's own people. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether, the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri #579

SHARING OF BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

RESPONSE *Be Calm My Soul* (Insert in front of Blue hymnal) v. 1

ANTHEM

NIGHT OF MIRACLES, NIGHT OF GRACE – BERRY

CHOIR

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OT READING: ISAIAH 52: 7-10

PG 523

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 1: 1-4

PG 846

GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 1-14

PG 750

CAROLS

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

#25

"THE FIRST NOWELL"

#56 v1, 2

SERMON:

"The Light of the World"

Pastor Seefeldt

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed, traditional, Page 14)

THE OFFERTORY

LITTLE ALTAR BOY – SMITH

DUET BY KRISTI ZENK &

AL OLSON

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

*Doxology

#592

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World!"

#40

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

"Find Us Faithful"

on Screen

*POSTLUDE

JOY TO THE WORLD - RITTER

Liturgist: Jerry Boettger

Organist: Ann Voggesser

Audio: Bob Irwin

Video: Bob Irwin

Choir Director: Kristy Zenk

Greeters: Ruth & David Moen

Ushers: Drexel & Vicki Nixon

Announcements

Pray for those in the military: Brandon Burns, Tyler Prussing, John Torres, Derrick Franck, and David Franck.

PLEDGE CARDS: If you have not returned your 2012 pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thanks!!

THIS WEEK:

Rev. Seefeldt will be in the office and making calls Tuesday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. this week. If you need assistance, please give him a call at 263-5332 or 263-2971. If you prefer a pastoral visit, please contact the office at 263-4130.

Today, December 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Monday, December 26th: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27th: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY at Family Table 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 28th: NO YOUTH GROUP
NO CHANCEL CHOIR

Thursday, December 29th: BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1st: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 2nd: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THANK YOU I would like to say "thank you" for all of your generous donations that were made for Laura's medical care, my plane fare, and the costs in Laura's rehabilitation.

What a blessing to have all of you for my family! Thanks for your prayers and thoughts. It is truly "A WONDERFUL LIFE" in Denison at the United Presbyterian Church. Hugs and gardenia blossoms to you!

Mary Goettsch

PRAYERS FOR: Garry Chapman, Tanner Gotto, Scott Chapman, Laura Goettsch, Dale Kinney, Bob Irwin, Michele Olson, Ron Evilsizer, Charles Kruse, Fred Worrell, and Barb Saunders.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: Leo Burmeister, Putsy Powell, Dale Saunders, Mary Jean Rasmussen, Ron Bierma, Leona Philipp, and our church family.