

December 19, 2010

Christmas Pageant

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: How strange, how unlikely that God would choose Mary to give birth to the Messiah.

P: Our God is full of surprises!

L: God's love does not always fit neatly into our assumptions and expectations.

L: The love of God can come to us in ways we least expect, just as it did for Mary.

P: God's love is powerful enough to melt even the stoniest heart.

L: The love of God is powerful enough to heal our brokenness, to remove our sin, and to set us free to love God and one another.

P: As we light this candle, let us prepare to receive the gift of God's love made known to us in the infant Jesus.

L: May we be filled with awe and humility so that we will not miss the unpredictable love born to us in God's wonderful child.

TWO VOICES OF LOVE

Emily Cady and Kenda Dean

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Today as we add the candle of love to those of peace, hope and joy, we pray that their light might shine in each our lives.

(Lighting of the fourth Advent candle)

O God, make us signs of your love today. Amen.

***HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH No. 234

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, who comes to us again and again through the marvels of nature, in the person of Jesus, through the voice of conscience, and through your Spirit that dwells within us:

Make us receptive during these days of Advent to your still, small voice that calls us from childishness to childlikeness, from fear to faith, from greed to generosity, and from a life that is self-centered to one that is centered in you. For we long

for our lives to reflect the spirit of the One whose birth will soon be celebrated. Amen. MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News, Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, that proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

PAGEANT

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 230 v. 1

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

No. 236 v. 1

We Three Kings

No. 254 v. 1

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN OF REFLECTION *"Lead Me, Lord"*

UMH No. 473

MORNING PRAYER

***HYMN**

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

UMH No. 251

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY *Please put your name on offering envelope.*

GIVING OF GIFTS, TITHES, OFFERINGS

(In response to God's love, we offer our gifts, reflecting on what God has done in our lives this week.)

***DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow:**

Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **As Christmas trees are lighted, as we rush to shop and send cards, as Christmas carols are heard everywhere, keep us close to you, O Lord. Keep us mindful of the One whose coming we celebrate. May all that we do and all that we give shine forth with your love. We are your people. Love through us. Let the Christ Child be seen in us, for it is in his name that we pray and prepare. Amen.**

*HYMN *“Angels We Have Heard High”* UMH No. 238

*CIRCLE OF LOVE o *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* No. 557, v. 1

*LORD’S PRAYER *BENEDICTION *POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.