



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JANUARY 1, 2023

PRELUDE

“Nowell, Nowell”
Daniel Burton

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A new year begins, and with it new opportunities to preach the Gospel!

All: We give thanks to God for the year past, and look with anticipation at what God will bring in the year to come.

Leader: God has destined us for adoption as God’s children, the season of Christmas reminds us of the fulfillment of that adoption.

All: We are God’s children, and the Lord is our God!

Leader: In Christ, we have obtained an inheritance; We, who have set our hope in Christ, live for the praise of his glory!

All: Come, let us worship the newborn King!

CAROLS

“Once in Royal David’s City” (#183 vs. 1,2)
“Away in a Manger” (#203 vs. 1,3)
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (#185 vs. 1,2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: On this the eighth day of Christmas, as another year begins, we come together before God and with one another to confess the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for Justice;

All: forgive us.

Leader: For the times, in our desire of making the season perfect, we

have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of Healing;

All: forgive us.

Leader: For the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love;

All: forgive us.

Leader: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray,

All: Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

CAROL

”Angels We Have Heard on High” (#188 vs. 1)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ grew in wisdom as a child. Send your Spirit to this place that, in the reading of this scripture, we may grow in wisdom by the proclamation of your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:22-30; John 15:9-15

MESSAGE

It’s a Wonderful Life

OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING

”Long Ago in Bethlehem”
Arr. Phyllis Tate

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born from a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (#218 vs. 1,3)

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Christina Harmon