

whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7 ~ Pages 1041-1042 in pew Bible

For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope [that is, God’s assured promise], the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs according to the hope [that is, God’s assurance] of eternal life.

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “The Birth of Jesus, Our Savior” Rev. Frank Wyche

\*HYMN *How Great Our Joy!* #269

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kamela Lauren Malcolm-Smith, and Rilynn Violet Smith

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (...*debts/debtors*...)

\*HYMN *Joy to the World!* #270

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Verse 4, How Great Our Joy!* #269

POSTLUDE Carolyn Wallace

**HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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## HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 25, 2016

Christmas ~ The Nativity of the Lord

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Carolyn Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP**     *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*     #279

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ John 3: 16-17; 1 John 4: 14-16

**L:** For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**P:** For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**L:** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in them, and they in God.

**P:** So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them.

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF ADORATION** ~ PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

**L:** Glory to you, Eternal Father, who created the world and gave us life. At the right time, the time of your choosing, you sent your Son, to give us eternal life in him.

**P:** Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, who became human and dwelt among us, that we might be restored to God, and become your people.

**L:** Glory to you, Holy Spirit, who directs and rules our lives, giving us hearts and minds to respond to your call to return to God by faith in Jesus.

**P:** Glory to you, Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one God, now and forever. Amen!

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH,**

*The Christ Candle* ~ from the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

**L:** In the birth of Jesus, the salvation of God was revealed to all the world. O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, who sustains the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

**P:** O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the redemption and restoration of all creation: Lead us in your way.

**L:** O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, but born into humanity in a stable at Bethlehem: May your Church be a sign of hope and joy for all people.

**P:** O Christ, born of the virgin Mary, Child of wonder and splendor, Mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in your peace and justice, now, and forever. Amen!

\*HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#249

CALL TO CONFESSION

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ, you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that because of our sin, we have not welcomed the light. Because we do not lean on your strength every minute of every day, we have not trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord, whose real coming into the world we celebrate this day.**     *(Silent prayer and private confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**P:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

\*GLORIA PATRI

#813

CHILDREN'S LESSON ~ *Children through 5th grade may go to Junior Church afterward*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 ~ Page 593 in the pew Bible

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 2: 1-20 ~ Page 889 in the pew Bible

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with

