

Order of Worship
December 18, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

PRAISE AND ADORATION

Lighting The Candle of Peace

Listen to the words of the prophet Micah 5:2-5a – “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

*Hymn: “Good Christian Friend, Rejoice” # 28

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

You speak to us with a soft voice but our lives are too noisy so we do not hear you. You come to us as a surprise guest but we already have plans so we turn you away. You welcome us in the smile of a stranger but we are in a hurry so we do not see you. You invite us to new ways of living but we prefer our comforts so we refuse to follow you. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Help us to be still and know that you are God with us and to respond in trust and love. Amen.

Confession Response: “**Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**” # 574

Assurance of Pardon

Greeting One Another

*Response “Gloria Patri” # 579

HEARING THE WORD

Let the Children Come

Choral Music

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: “A Problem or a Gift?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn: “Away in a Manger” # 25

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory and Presentation of Gifts to God

*Doxology # 592

*Prayer of Dedication

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” # 23

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response: “Amen”