

The Approach to God

PRELUDE

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Bob Dey, Bass

VOTUM

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

"The star stopped over the place where the child was. When the wise men saw that the star was stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."

Lord, shine your guiding light upon our lives. Help us to rejoice always with exceeding great joy!

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure they offered him gifts."

Lord, we bow in worship this morning. Accept our praise, accept our lives, accept our love as the gifts that we bring to you this day.

"The shepherds returned to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen."

Lord, when we return to our homes and our jobs and our schools, may we glorify and praise you for that we have seen and heard.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #168

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*SALUTATION

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

(unison)

Great God of power and of love, we praise you for Jesus Christ who came to save us from our sin. We thank you for the prophets' hope, the angels' song, the wondrous birth in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you joined us, sharing human pain and joy, and granting us eternal love. In these quiet moments, grant us your light and your peace. Illumine our lives with the wonderful tidings that unto us a Savior has been born. In his precious name we pray, Amen.

SOLO
Bass

"Birthday of a King"

Bob Dey,

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-18

***CAROL #176**

"We Three Kings"

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Our Response to God

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (Unison from "Our Song of Hope")

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of our God.
Being united to his humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.

RECEPTION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Silent Night"

Elizabeth Matson - Piano
Mandy Shafer - Flute

CAROL SING

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

***CAROL #173**

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

***BENEDICTION**

"Gloria in excelsis Deo"

***POSTLUDE**

*The congregation may stand.

TODAY'S STEWARDS

Greeter: Carole Angrilla

Ushers: Nancy Dey, Jennifer Legg

Nursery: Vicki, Renee & Natalie Sherwood

Fellowship: Potluck Brunch

Next week's stewards (**January 5**):

Greeters: Ron & Gayle Dellinger

Ushers: Pete & Barbara Nickel

Nursery: Ed & Melissa Matson

Fellowship: Bring your favorite Christmas Cookies

CONSISTORY INSTALLATION

At our congregational meeting, Jane DeWitt and Ronald Dellinger were elected to serve as Elders on the Consistory. They will be installed in January. If anyone has a biblical reason why either of them should not serve on Consistory, please let the Pastor or a current Consistory member know.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

There is a need for volunteers who can provide snacks on Sunday mornings following worship. Please see the sign-up sheet and sign up for the Sunday of your choice. Your help is greatly appreciated!

FOOD PANTRY

Needed items are: cereal, sugar, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, canned milk, jelly, ramen noodles, beef stew, chili, condiments like ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce. They could also use laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels and toilet paper.

OPEN ART WORKSHOP

Please join us for our free Open Art Workshop which meets every Friday from 1 – 3. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and it is open to anyone, both inside and outside the church. Participants should bring any creative project in any medium and all their own supplies. Donations are optional.