

Family Service

10:00 a.m.

January 2, 2022

Welcome, Greeting, and Reconnecting!

Expressing Our Joy

Leader: Who are you?

People: I am a child of God.

Leader: Who are we?

People: We are children of God, the family of faith.

Leader: What does it mean to be children of God?

People: We belong to God who loves us and calls us God's own.

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (Congregation seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Asking God's Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Leader: In prayer together, let us ask for God's forgiveness: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We have mean, angry thoughts about friends and strangers. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We pick fights with people we love, especially when we know it's wrong. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We snap back at other people, always wanting to have the last word. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We waste time on all the wrong things, forgetting what is most important. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, change our hearts so that we might love the way you love us. Amen.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Reassurance of God's Forgiveness

Scripture: **Benediction based on Thessalonians 5**

*Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainted hearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Message ***The Work of Christmas Begins***

Prayer, concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Blessing

Sung Response *This Little Light of Mine*

Welcome to the Family Service! It is so great seeing you all!

The Family Service has returned to 10:00 a.m.

If worshipping in-person, please meet in the Fellowship Hall, and we will choose where to gather, either indoors or outside on the porch.

As always, you may join the service over Zoom!