

9:00 a.m.

Devotional Service

December 18, 2022

Welcome to the 9:00 a.m. Devotional Service. Together, may we rejoice and give thanks for God's loving grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Welcome and Life in the Community

*Hymn 113 **Angels We Have Heard on High** GLORIA

*Expressing Our Anticipation

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.

People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.

People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.

(Congregation seated.)

Introit **O Come, All Ye Faithful** ADESTE FIDELES
 Noah Parker, guitar

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and open them to ordinary wonders all around us. We see the waning sun, the dazzle of holiday display, each other's weary faces, and we know that we have seen this all before. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of the birth of your Son. From the prophet's good news to the shepherd's joyful witness, we have heard it all before. The season is familiar and holds no surprises. God, remind us that your power and love are both ancient and ever new. Help us to recognize the love borne into the world at each moment. Then with glad hearts may we welcome your Son, before whom even the desert blooms and rejoices.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Musical Response **What Child Is This** GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this, who laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is the Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!*

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Genesis 28:10-17 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 24 in the pew Bible.]

Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 54-55 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon ***The Angels of Christmas: The Shepherd's Message*** Rev. Vance E. Polley

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

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(In the *Offering*, we dedicate our lives and a portion of the resources God has entrusted to us.
Your gifts may be dedicated online, by mail, or in-person.)

*At the Presentation **Doxology** (No. 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication, 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.

*Hymn 119 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** MENDELSSOHN

*Blessing

*Going Out into the World

*All those who are able, please stand.