

1st Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

Welcome

*Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy days of Christmas.

People: Here we have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

People: Here in our worship, we look to the future as we are filled with the gifts of Christmas: love, hope, peace, joy!

All: Now we again sing the joyous carols of Christmas and witness to our Savior's birth.

*Opening Hymn #240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Centering Prayer

Heavenly God, may our hallelujahs ring loud and true as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Let us rejoice knowing that he is truly Emmanuel, God with us. Our hearts are filled with joy knowing that we see your face in the precious baby Jesus. May our worship and praise be to your glory, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Children's Message

Ministry of the Word *Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)*

Psalter Reading *Psalms 148*

Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."

People: "Thanks be to God."

*Hymn of Preparation #250 *Once in Royal David's City*

Sermon *"Our Time at the Temple"* *Rev. Bates* *Luke 2:22-40 (NLT)*

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer #895

Offering & Offertory *Child of Light* *Mary Frances Bukva & Susan Hrbek, soloists; Keren Gibson, flute*

*Doxology #94

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you for this season of carols and gifts, and for your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer you our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May love and justice blossom from our gifts. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #251 *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

*Christmas Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We believe in the eternal Deity

**People: In whose mind was born the plan of salvation;
In whose heart was born a love for humankind.**

Leader: We believe in the incarnate Deity

People: Born in humble station

Amid the lowing animals,

A light in darkness,

The promise of hope to the world.

Leader: We believe in the inspiring Deity,

People: Bringing life to the womb of Mary,

Giving a song to the angel chorus,

Proclaiming good news to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

Leader: We believe in the God who was, is and ever shall be;

People: The same yesterday, today and forever;

Leader: Before Bethlehem, at Bethlehem, beyond Bethlehem,

All: Forever, world without end. Amen.

*Benediction

*Postlude

**For those who are able, please stand*