

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, we behold the gift of the Child yet again, but we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points us to Your glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angels' song. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little, that we overlook the good news of great joy. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that life can be abundant in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are, but because of Your faithfulness and what You have given us in Jesus Christ.

SILENT TIME OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, do not forget that this child was sent into the world for a purpose. He is God's only Son and our Savior, Christ the Lord.

He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen!

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lesson 1 Carol	John 1:1-5,9-14 "The Snow Lay on the Ground" <i>Julie Vogel, Phyllis Wine, Elizabeth Burch, Susan Whipple</i>	Noah McMillan arr. William Cutter
Lesson 2 Carol	Matthew 1:18-25 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" <i>Meredith Brown, Richard Brown, Julia Brown, Elizabeth Burch</i>	Shelley Porter arr. Hugh Livingston
Lesson 3 Carol	Luke 2:1-14 "Angels We Have Heard on High" <i>Rachel Lawson, Shelley Porter, Elizabeth Burch, Susan Whipple</i>	Brenda Fox arr. Trevor Manor
Lesson 4 Carol	Luke 2:15-16 "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" <i>Eileen Butler, Julie Vogel, Susan Whipple</i>	John Gilmer arr. Malcolm Archer
Lesson 5 Carol	Luke 2:17-20 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" <i>Pat Kirby, Noah McMillan, Susan Whipple</i>	Peter Lodal arr. Trevor Manor

DECLARATION OF FAITH

*He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.
He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame He came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,
For to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 134

"Joy to the World"

arr. Mark Patterson

Led by: Richard Brown, John Gilmer, Noah McMillan, Susan Whipple

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"

from *Christmas Oratorio*
by Camille Saint-Saens

Our thanks to Elizabeth Burch for adding so much to our service today by playing her violin. Elizabeth is a freshman at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she is majoring in Violin Performance.

We also thank Julia Brown for being with us, though we are glad this is not an unusual occurrence. Julia is a freshman at ETSU majoring in business and minoring in music.



**The Poinsettias
adorning the Sanctuary
are given to the**

In Loving Memory of

- Robert McMillan.....Noah & Robin McMillan
Allen Roedecker.....Noah & Robin McMillan
Rev. David Hale.....Sarah Hale
Rev. David Hale.....Betty & Jerry Fritz
Dr. Theodore A. Fritz.....Betty & Jerry Fritz
Ed & Vi Gustafson.....Betty & Jerry Fritz
Phil & Eva Hamer.....Pattie Hamer
S. Edson Blanchard.....His Family
Kristal Germroth.....Howard & Karen Carman
Sinclair Preston.....Betsy Preston
Patsy Marsh.....Ken & Katherine Marsh
Dyanne King.....Ken & Katherine Marsh
Bob Avery.....The Eldredges
Jim Randall.....The Eldredges

In Honor of

- Cynthia McMillan.....Noah & Robin McMillan
Helen Roedecker.....Noah & Robin McMillan
Rev. Dan & Jean Clark.....Betty & Jerry Fritz

Continued on back

In Honor of, cont'd.

Rev. Collin Adams and all of the wonderful WRPC Staff.....
.....Betty & Jerry Fritz

Peter & Susan Lodal and all of the Food Pantry Volunteers.....
.....Betty & Jerry Fritz

Nicholas Cox.....Paul Cox

Christopher Cox.....Paul Cox

Vanessa Zapatee & William Cox.....Paul Cox

Julie Vogel.....Howard & Karen Carman

Josephine Morrison.....Betsy Preston

Julie Vogel for her Ministry.....Susan & Peter Lodal

In Celebration of

Our Grandchildren.....Susan & Peter Lodal