First Sunday After Christmas – December 27, 2015

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 what we have seen and heard.

*Carol #168

Angels from the

Realms of Glory

Christmas Prayer

(unison)

Gracious God, we lift our voices in praise and adoration, hallelujahs and glorias, for your gift of life to us, your gift of newness and hope. Our ears hear the faint cry from the manger and our hearts sing for joy. He is born! Our blind eyes feel the gentle touch of the Healer bidding us see and we are born anew. Our stooped shoulders strengthen as the burden of guilt is lifted, and the weight of sin falls from our souls. Our faces feel the warm glow of a new day and our spirit soars with newness of life. With our ears and our eyes, our shoulders and our faces, our hearts and our minds, we hear and see and feel and know that you are God, overflowing with love, nourishing us from the river of the water of life. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Christmas. Amen.

Christmas Carol Medley

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

(p. 1 New Testament)

*Carol #156 "The First Noel"

Many thanks to Lonieta and the choirs for providing us with wonderful music during the last month and throughout the year.

A Story of Christmas: The Misfit

*Carol #174 "As with Gladness

Men of Old"

*Benediction

Next Sunday we will celebrate Communion as well as ordain and install Jennifer Legg as an Elder and install Chris Forte as an Elder and David Pynaker as a Deacon to the Consistory. The Book of Church Order requires us to publish the names of those elected on 3 consecutive Sundays before their installation. If you have a legitimate objection to their assuming office, please contact the Pastor or a Consistory Member.

Your offering to God may be placed in the offering plates by the door as you leave.