

## PRELUDE

◇ A time of quiet preparation

Jim Harris, Piano

## WORDS OF GREETING

### WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

from Psalm 95 (NIV)

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

People: **For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.**

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

People: **Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.**

IN PRAYER

### \*WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 714

*We Plow the Fields*

### WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Morris Lapi

Unison: **Father of mercies, we confess that we have sinned against  
you. By your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into  
our hearts. Help us to see you as you are: with outstretched  
arms, a loving heart, and power to save. Help us to see  
Jesus, the friend of sinners, and to follow him more  
faithfully. As we have received him, so strengthen us to walk  
in him, depend on him, commune with him, and be con-  
formed to him. Give us an experience of your grace that  
makes us bold for others, that we might joyfully tell our  
friends and neighbors of your saving mercy. Amen.**

### \*WE EXALT OUR LORD

WORSHIP SONGS

Leader: You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to  
the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the  
destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the  
heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking  
forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteous-  
ness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this,  
make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with  
him.  
II Peter 3:11b-14 (NIV)

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Invite a Friend Sunday

### WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (4 years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

WELCOME TO VISITORS

### WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL Offertory *Sing to the Lord of Harvest/* arr. by H. Willan

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12: 54-13:9 (NIV)

<sup>54</sup> He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west,  
immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does.<sup>55</sup> And when the  
south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is.<sup>56</sup> Hypo-  
crites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and  
the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present  
time?"

<sup>57</sup> "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?" <sup>58</sup> As you are  
going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be recon-  
ciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the  
judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into  
prison. <sup>59</sup> I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last

penny. "

<sup>1</sup> Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>

Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?"

<sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them-- do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

SERMON

*Pay Attention to Your Heart*  
*series: Jesus and the Parables*  
Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE 175 (vss. 1, 2 & 4)

*A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus My Lord*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

(4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

*The Advent Chorale/ F. Mendelssohn*