

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

December 27, 2015

10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: Selections from "Christmas Concerto"

Corelli

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

* Call to Worship:

Psalm 96:10-13

Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

* Hymn: PH 340

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God,

And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

* Prayer:

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, by the power of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may share the divine life of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Response: PH 354, stanza 5 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

Saints and angels join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore their voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

Hebrews 3:12-14

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Silent Prayer and Confession

Minister: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Titus 3:4-7

Duet: "Christmas Offering"

Baloche

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: PH 345

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave after the hymn.]

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:1-13

Sermon: *Wise Men Still Seek Him*

Prayer

* Hymn: PH 358

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

THE OFFERING OF TRIBUTE

* Offertory Prayer

Offerings: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J. S. Bach / arr. Smith, Hustad

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Blessing:

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Amen.

* Doxology: PH 337, stanzas 1, 4

"Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

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.

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.

* Postlude: Selections from "Christmas Concerto"

Corelli