

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Day, December 8, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

First Advent Reading and Candle Lighting: Isaiah 9:10-14; Luke 2:1-8
(The Wahrman Family—JD, Samantha, Isabel and Louise)

***God Calls Us to Worship Him:** Responsive Reading of 1 John 1:1-3

Pastor: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

Congregation: The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life,

Pastor: which was with the Father and was made manifest to us,

All: that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

*** We Sing in Response:** #203 Red Hymnal *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

*** We Seek God's Presence in Prayer**

We Confess Our Sins Together: Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Pray Silent Prayers of Confession

God Assures Us We Are Forgiven: 1 John 1:5-7

*** We Sing In Response to God's Forgiveness:** #317 Black Hymnal *"Light of God"*

*** We Confess Our Faith Together:** We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen. – *Apostles Creed*

We Read From God's Word: 1 John 3:1-3; 4:7-16

We Pray For The Congregation and Community

We Memorize God's Word: John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

We Present Our Tithes & Offerings In Worship

We Worship Through the Music of Offertory: *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

-The Vocal Ensemble (arranged by Ben Shive and Keith Getty)

* **We Sing the Doxology:** #731 Red Hymnal *"Doxology"*

* **We Give Thanks to the Lord**

* **We Sing In Preparation for the Word:** #246 Black Hymnal *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

Children ages 4 through kindergarten dismissed to Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your child in the lobby on your way to the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Reads the Sermon Text: Acts 5:12-26

Pastor Preaches God's Word: *"Freed to Proclaim, 'ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE!'"*

– Pastor Wes James

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

* **We Sing In Response to the Word:** #226 Black Hymnal *"Good Christian Men Rejoice"*

* **The Lord Sends Us Out (Benediction)**

Sermon Outline
Acts 5:12-26
Freed to Proclaim, "All the Words of this Life!"
12-08-24

Proposition: The Lord sovereignly frees and empowers His people to keep on preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, "*ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE!*"

Main Point One: The Signs and Wonders of the Apostles

Sub Point One: Their Gathering... "Solomon's Portico"

Sub Point Two: The 'Esteem of the People'

Sub Point Three: The Growth of the Church

Sub Point Four: An Impressive Ministry

Main Point Two: The Arrest of the Apostles

Sub Point One: The Jealousy of 'the High Priest'

Sub Point Two: The Apostles Imprisoned

Sub Point Three: The Angel's Deliverance

Main Point Three: The Proclamation of the Apostles

Sub Point One: The Angel's Declaration

Sub Point Two: The Apostles Obedience

Sub Point Three: The Council's Confusion

Sub Point Four: A Second Arrest