Second Sunday of Christmas



10 A. M. Worship for Sunday, January 07, 2024

First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover, New Jersey

***Gathering and Focusing during Prelude:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

***Thank you for choosing to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with us today!***

***\*We invite you to stand if you are able for those portions of the liturgy marked with an asterisk.***

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***Call to Worship:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

Rachel: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:

All: ***Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.***

***Call to Confession:***

Tom**:** Jesus was baptized!

All: ***We were baptized!***

Tom**:**  Jesus, who loved His Father and His neighbor, and after fulfilling his mission, returned to be with His Father.

All: ***We are tasked with loving our Father and our neighbor, and to return to our Father.***

Tom**:** Let us now confess our sins to God.

***Corporate Prayer of Confession:***

Tom: (Let us pray…)

 All: ***Merciful God,***

 ***we know what to do, and you make it sound so easy.***

 ***Yet time and again we recognize that we fall short of your***

 ***commandments.***

 ***Please forgive us, O God, and help us continue to improve.***

 ***Amen.***

*(We pause here for a few moments of silent, personal confession…)*

***Assurance of Pardon:***

Tom: In Matthew 18, verses 21-22, we read, “…’How often should I forgive?’… Jesus said to Peter, ‘… seventy-seven times.’” Imagine then how often God is willing to forgive us if we repent.

 All:***Thanks be to God!*** ***Amen.***

***\*Hymn No. 38:*** - Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

***\*Celebrating the Peace Jesus Came to Bring:*** **- Tom Bailey**

Tom: From Psalm 29 we read, “Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

 All: ***Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.***

Tom: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

 All: ***The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.***

 Tom: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

 All: ***May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!”***

 Tom: Without moving from where you now stand,

 please take the next few moments to share a warm greeting

 and a sincere sign of God’s peace with those around you.

- THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (of the Bible-a translation)

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***Choral Anthem:*** “The Servant Song”

 - Gillard

***Children’s Message:*** **- Megan Quinones**

***Sung Prayer for Illumination:***   - Naida Hearn, 1975

***Jesus, name above all names beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.***

***Emmanuel, God is with us blessed Redeemer, Living Word.***

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***Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5*** - OT p. 1**- Megan Quinones**

***New Testament Lessons:* - Megan Quinones**

***Mark 1:4-11*** - NT p. 34

***John 8:12*** - NT p. 101

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Megan:This is the Word of the Lord…

 All: ***Thanks be to God!***

***Adult Message: “What Is Your Goal?”* - Tom Bailey**

***Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication:***

Tom:We are grateful to have you with us as we worship together

 on the Second Sunday of Christmastide;

 and we hope you will be stewardship partners with us

 in our ministry here and around the world

 as you have been partners with us in our worship,

 whether here, in our sanctuary,

 or somewhere safe or convenient to you on your computer.

 If you worshiped with us on your computer, and are able

 and willing, please consider mailing an offering to our church

 office this week @ 51 West Blackwell Street, Dover NJ 07801.

 *Invitation to the offering:*

As we reflect on this day and the baptism of Jesus, let us remember that this is the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, and that, ultimately, God offered his son for our salvation.

 Let us now offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

 Let us pray…

All: **Dear God, on the first day you created light, and the light was good. Yet we descended into darkness.**

**Thank you for then giving us Jesus, a new light to lead us out of darkness. Help us to follow Jesus always, as we work to share the light with the world.**

  ***Amen.***

***Offertory:* - Rachel Persenaire**

 “Peace Has Come” -Fielding/Hastings/Simmons

***Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper:***

***Invitation: (open to all who believe)***

***Consecration:***

***Consummation:***

***Appreciation***

***Joys and Concerns:***

***Prayers of and for the People and Lord’s Prayer:***

Tom: **…****Amen.**

 All: ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name…***

***\*Hymn of Parting No. 367:*** – Ghanian folk song

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

***\*Charge and Benediction:* - Tom Bailey**

***Postlude:* - Rachel Persenaire**

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**OUR NEXT LORD’S DAY CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE ON JANUARY 7, 2024.**

**FIRST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CONGREGATION**

**51 West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801**

**A member congregation of Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey,**

**The Synod of the Northeast, and**

**The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.**

***We will repeat taking a sojourn to the Chapel for our worship services from January 14th until March 17th (weather permitting) to save approximately $1,000 a year on natural gas costs to heat the Sanctuary.***

***For those who regularly use “the lift” to gain access to our Sanctuary, please park and plan your entry to the building and the use of the stair lift in the East Tower entrance. Thank you!***