

**\* THE HYMN 265**

*Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand*

**\* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* THE RESPONSE**

*Song of Simeon*

American folk melody



*Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. Should you find that your child grows restless, there is child care available. Infants are cared for in the Nursery in Room 105, toddlers 18 months through two years in Room 112.*

Elder on call: Michael Perez 770.939.9037

Deacon on call: Nan Cunningham 404.783.0721

Ushers: Beth Baer, James Klotz, Shari Tant, and David York

Greeters: Ellen Brown, Beverly Tatum, Austin Davis,

James Beasley, Bill and Sanda Means

Coffee & Conversation Host: Gail Kitchens

Counters: Randy Parrish and Bill Southwood

Infant Nursery: Mindee Metz

Two's Nursery: Megan Nelson

Three's Nursery: Bryan and Tamara Smith

Preschool Program Volunteers: Van Crisco and Ibby Bailey

Children's Worship Volunteers: John Wingert and Randy Parrish

Fellowship: The Deacons

**Staff**

- Joanna M. Adams.....Pastor
- Christopher Henry .....Associate Pastor
- Robert Gray.....Assistant to the Minister
- Walter Huff.....Organist/Choirmaster
- Melinda Sandkam .....Program Director
- Kevin Weber.....Seminary Intern
- Nancy Meehan Yao.....Children's Worship Leader
- Rebekah Diehl.....Youth Coordinator
- Martha Hartzell.....Preschool Director
- Brittney Jaynes.....Children's Choir Director
- Sherrill Terry.....Office Administrator
- Ann Benson.....Office Assistant

**WORSHIP      DECEMBER 28, 2008**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Thank you for making sure your cell phone is off during the worship hour.

**THE PRELUDE**

Walter Huff

**\* THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Morgan

Leader: Dear friends, consider these questions: Who chose us in Christ before space and time were conceived, before the universe exploded into immensity?

**People: God alone, through Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Who destined us for adoption as beloved children, to be holy and blameless in God's presence?

**People: God alone, through Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Who has lavished grace upon us, and plans in the fullness of time to bring all things to completion?

**People: God alone, through Jesus Christ.**

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

**\* THE HYMN 28**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

*\* (The asterisk indicates parts of the worship when the congregation is invited to stand as they are able.)*

**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the future,  
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbors,  
abuse the earth,  
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,  
and to seek things that will endure  
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE** *(for examination of conscience and personal prayers of confession)*

**THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (Hymn 417)  
Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son, laud and honor to  
the Spirit, ever three and ever one; One in might and one in glory while  
unending ages run.

**\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST**  
*(Children ages 2-11 are invited to leave after the **Peace of Christ** for special classes. Three-year-olds are in Room 204; Pre-K in G-11; K - 2nd grade in G-1; 3rd - 5<sup>th</sup> grades in G-3.)*

**THE CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**  
*(Visitors and members are invited to sign the blue friendship register pad and pass it down the pew.)*

**THE FIRST READING** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Bill Smith  
(page 650 in the Pew Bible)

**THE ANTHEM**

**THE SECOND READING** Luke 2:22-40 (page 55 in the Pew Bible)

**THE SERMON** “Much Is Taken, Much Abides” Joanna Adams  
*Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God... Luke 2:27-28a*

**\* THE HYMN 275** *God of Our Life*

**\* THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose  
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion  
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life  
everlasting. Amen.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead  
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**THE OFFERTORY** *God Rest You Merry / The First Noel* arr. Carter

**\* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Hymn 592)