WELCOME

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE  Carol of the Bells  Brass Quartet

CALL TO WORSHIP
L: I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
   Their old, familiar carols play,
   And wild and sweet, their words repeat
P: of peace on earth, good-will to men.
L: I thought as how the day had come,
   the belfries of all Christendom,
   had rolled along the unbroken song,
P: of peace on earth, good-will to men.
L: Till ringing, singing, on its way,
   The world revolved from night to day,
   A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
P: of peace on earth, good-will to men.
P: Then in despair I bowed my head,
   There is no peace on earth, I said,
   For hate is strong and mocks the song
   Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
L: Then peeled the bells more loud and deep,
   God is not dead, nor doth God sleep,
   The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
P: with peace on earth, good-will to men.

POEM FOR REFLECTION  Dreams by Langston Hughes  Melissa Shedlock

WE LIGHT THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE
Our thanks to Diane Badner and Duane and Cooper Tomak for lighting today’s advent candle.

ONE CANDLE IS LIT  Pianist: Benjamin Knight
Vocalist: Ms. Kim Brenstuhl
The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.”

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Those Who Dream

Prepare the Way…and Dream!

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

Crown Him with Many Crowns