

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE- "Selected"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 149)

Minister: Praise the Lord and sing to him a new song!

People: Let us all rejoice in our King!

Minister: Let us praise our God with music and dancing!

People: Let us offer thanks with singing

Minister: For the Lord takes pleasure in His people

All: And we, His people, sing of thanksgiving and praise to our God for his mercy, forgiveness, and love.

*HYMN- "Away In A Manger"

#209

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: God so loved the world that He sent us His son

People: No matter what wrongs we have committed we can be forgiven with repentance.

Minister: The blood of Jesus was shed for our sins.

People: Forgive us, Lord, our sins as we ask with a contrite heart.

Minister: God forgives us all because of Calvary.

All: Thanks be to God for his mercy and love.

*GLORIA PATRI

SCRIPTURE LESSON – Psalm 100

Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

SCRIPTURE LESSON – Matthew 2:10-18

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But when it was time to leave, they

went home another way, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to try and kill the child." That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the Prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt." Herod was furious when he learned that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, because the wise men had told him that star had first appeared to them about two years earlier. Herod's brutal actions fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah: "A cry of anguish is heard in Ramah- weeping and mourning unrestrained. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted- for they are dead.

SILENT PRAYER

Prayer List - Mary Andrews, Gerry Audette, Barbara Frates, Louise Gardels, Lola Harper, Cindi Lancto, Fr. Jack Gallagher. Ken & Lois Macomber, Vito Mauro, Jane Maxim, Eleanor Orsini, Suzanne Reardon, Betty Valk, Doug Valk, Charlene Wilson, Henry

PASTORAL PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases/Trespas)

OFFERTORY- "Selected"

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bless these gifts oh Lord, which we offer to You with humble hearts. May they be used to further Your kingdom here on earth, throughout the world and in our own community. With grateful spirits for all that You do in our lives, we pray these things in Jesus' name. AMEN

*HYMN- "Silent Night"

#189

MESSAGE – "The Child in Each of Us"

*HYMN- "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#200

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE- "Selected"

Announcements

We welcome you to the Village Congregational Church as we gather for this time of reflection on God's love for his people. May God inspire and bless our hearts and lives today. Nursery care is offered during the service.

Thanks to Pastor Pat Furber for bringing the message to us and leading the worship this morning.

Pulpit poinsettia is given in loving memory of Mike Ovoian by his wife Alice.

There will be no Sunday School today.

If you have not picked up your poinsettia from the chancel area yet, please do so after service.

If you would like to contribute chancel flowers for any given Sunday, please contact Marion Bosma at 508-234-5090.

The new mailboxes have been set up in the church office. A reminder to everyone that it applies to, please check your mail on a regular basis.

The church office will be closed New Years day.

Directory information! The new church directory will be printed the week of January 18th. If you have not yet submitted your information, please complete a form from the back table of the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate or in the church administrator's mailbox.

Volunteers wanted: The VCC is hosting a meal at the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen on January 14th. We need volunteers to cook, set up, serve and clean up. We could also use donations to buy the food. Please sign up in Mason Hall after service.

WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Whitinsville Christian School, preschool through grade 12, will hold an open house on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Learn more about our actively engaged learning environment and what makes Whitinsville Christian School distinctively Christian, academically challenging, artistically comprehensive, and athletically competitive. Register by calling 508-234-8211, ext. 11. www.wcs.mec.edu

The Village Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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December 28, 2008

10:00 AM Service



