

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 30, 2018

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

By your Holy Spirit, speak to our hearts so that we may live as your beloved children, proclaiming the joy of redemption to all. Amen.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Bert Lowe

*INTROIT #110

"Love Has Come" (v.1)

Bible, 1996

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenants.

God leads the humble in what is right and teaches them God's way.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN #110

"Love Has Come" (v.2&3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God who demands justice from us is the God who pours out mercy upon us. Trusting in that gracious love, let us confess our sin before God and one another, first in silence, and then with the Unison Prayer of Confession.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, we confess that we have not lived as your obedient children. We have honored you with our words, but we have denied you with our actions. We have not pursued the mind of Christ, who took the form of a servant, for we have acted with selfish ambition. We have put our interests before the interests of others and have not regarded them in humility. Forgive us our arrogance, awaken our hearts to sincere repentance, and enable us to will and to work for your

good pleasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*"Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, God offers forgiveness of our sin and abundant life to those who repent. Turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#580

Proclaiming

ANTHEM SOLO

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

(Cindy Ratliff, Soloist)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:1-10

Bibles, p.475/LG. p.618

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #816

"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

Neumark, 1641

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:14-18

Bibles, p.52/LG. p.67

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

"Is Dennis Covington Correct?"

Rev. Dr. Jimmie Reese

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Affirmation of Faith is from The Confession of 1967 (9.28-9.30)

The New Testament is the recorded testimony of apostles to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, and the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Church. The Old Testament bears witness to God's faithfulness in his covenant with Israel and points the way to the fulfillment of his purpose in Christ. The Old Testament is indispensable to understanding the New, and is not itself fully understood without the New. As God has spoken his word in diverse cultural

situations, the church is confident that he will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture. God's word is spoken to his church today where the Scriptures are faithfully preached and attentively read in dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit and with readiness to receive their truth and direction. This, we believe.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Selected

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #136 *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"* Work II, 1940

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

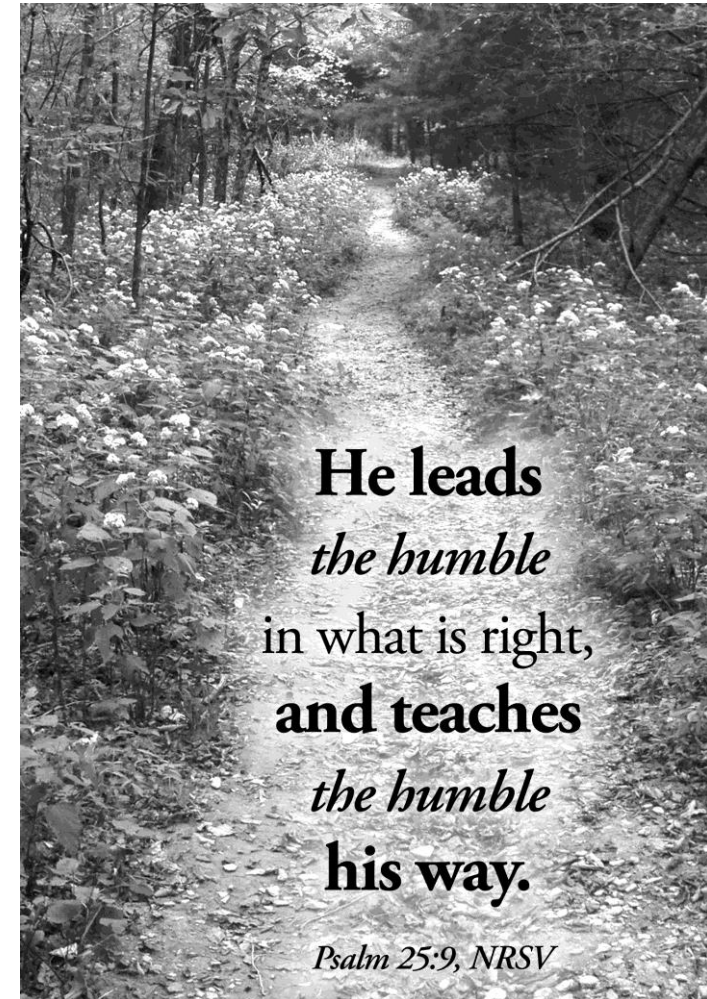
*CHORAL RESPONSE *"Benediction"*
(Chancel Choir)

POSTLUDE Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Rev. Dr. Jimmie Reese is an ordained United Methodist minister and professor who has served churches in East Texas and Houston, and as professor at Lon Morris College for 39 years. Rev. Reese has been married to his wife, Shirley, for 60 years and they have two grown children and two grandchildren. He has degrees from St. Mary's School of Theology, and a Doctoral degree from the Perkins School of Theology at SMU. We thank him immensely for serving us today.

This week's prayers and concerns: Debbie Castro, Fonta Conway, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, Kay Warren, Sue Williams, Lavonne and the family of Bob Schauwecker, Carol Scoggins and family, and Bill Caldwell (Katie Hurst's father).



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