

December 13, 2009 / 3rd Sunday of Advent

J. William Harris, Pastor
John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

On this third Sunday of Advent, we encourage everyone to think often about God's gift to us in Christ. What love God has for each of us! And what love we should have for one another! Welcome in the name of our Lord.

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP "O the Glory of Your Presence" Choir
WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING (Please register your attendance.)
THE ADVENT CELEBRATION: Joy
*Hymn of Praise: 238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Proclaiming the Word

*Psalter Reading: 862 – Psalm 150
*Affirmation of Faith: 881 – The Apostles' Creed
*The Gloria Patri: 70 – "Glory Be to the Father"

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS:
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER
THE OFFERTORY
*THE DOXOLOGY: 95 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

*Hymn of Preparation: 220 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison):
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: 817 – Luke 3:7 - 18
This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Star-Child" Choir

SERMON: "The Greatest Gift Ever" Chip Snelling
Responding to the Word

*Hymn of Commitment: 242 "Love Came Down at Christmas"
*BENEDICTION
*CHORAL RESPONSE "A Nativity Prayer" Choir
*RECESSIONAL

***Please stand (if your health permits), as a means of giving honor to God.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

TODAY:
9:30am Altar Prayer 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Morning Worship
THIS WEEK: *****
Mon., Dec. 14, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts 7:00pm – Art Class
Tues., Dec. 15, 7:00pm – Wisewood Neighborhood Meeting
Wed., Dec. 16, 7:00pm – Bible Study 7:45pm – Choir Practice
NEXT WEEK: *****
Sun., Dec. 20, 12:00pm – Watts Family Christmas Dinner
Mon., Dec. 21, 6:30pm – Cub Scout Pack 905's Christmas Party
Wed., Dec. 23, No Bible Study or Choir Practice
Thurs., Dec. 24, 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Service at Harris UMC

SERVING OUR LORD:	Today	Next Week
Nursery:	Volunteer	Volunteer
Acolyte:	Andrew Joseph	Andrew Joseph


Preparation for Worship: *Open us to your loving Spirit, dear God, so we'll know with certainty that we have been spiritually uplifted. Amen.*

Welcome to all who visit with us today. Your presence enhances our worship of Almighty God. Please sign a visitor's card, found in the pew racks, and give it to an usher during the offering, or sign the pew register pad found at the end of each pew. You are always welcome at Mathews.

A Memorial for Bill & Eddie Hodges was received from Jimmie Hodges.

A Gift to the Budget was received from the Willing Workers Class in honor of:
Buck Anders Nina Mathis Jesse Nance
Ray Snelling Rev. John Hipp Carol Hipp
Nancy Trustee Eunice Sudduth Mary DeLoach
Mary Turner Jessie Evans

Flowers are a lovely gift from God. The white poinsettia gracing our sanctuary today is begin presented for the glory of God and in loving memory of Emory Bailey by Loree Bailey.



Christmas Eve Service
Thursday
Dec. 24, 2009
at
Harris UMC

Our charge will gather for worship and communion at 7:00pm. Plan to be present for this special time of worship.