HYMN NOTES

“The Father’s Love Begotten” (108)

This hymn—one of the oldest in our hymnal—was written by Spanish poet Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-ca. 413) who became a Christian at age 57 after serving as a judge and chief of the Imperial Guard to Emperor Honorius. He was the first great poet of the Latin Church. Because Prudentius wrote when orthodox Christianity was still threatened by the lingering influence of the Roman emperors and in the midst of the development of the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, he was careful to emphasize important doctrinal considerations in his hymn. The translator John Mason Neale kept the meaning of the original in his translation. Prudentius wrote when orthodox Christianity was still threatened by the lingering influence of the Roman emperors and in the midst of the development of the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, he was careful to emphasize important doctrinal considerations in his hymn. The translator John Mason Neale kept the meaning of the original in his translation.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by

Elaine Cornillaud
In Memory of Larry W. Cornillaud

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2016/2017 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week in honor of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO…

Sunday, December 11th:  Eleanor Ciccarelli, Marle Whitten, Amy Saperstein, David O'Leary, Mark O'Leary
Wednesday, December 14th: Paul Means, Kurt Kemper
Thursday, December 15th: Lois Marsh, Christy Rickrode, Stephanie Rickrode
Friday, December 16th: Bailey Shields, Cheryl Roberts
Saturday, December 17th: Melanie Brown, Don Stevens, Chris Curvin

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven’t seen them in church recently, give them a call!

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr.-Olds-2nd Grade (16/17 School Year)
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship following the anthem.

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr.-Olds- Kindergarten, Room 3
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Jane Frame & Justine Ruiz.

1st-2nd Grade, Room 2
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Kristen Williamson & Nancy Stevens.

3rd-5th Grades
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. They will remain in service today with Tanya & Todd Adkisson.

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr.-Olds- 2nd Grade (16/17 School Year)
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship following the anthem.

Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Elder Dawn Winder, Chair of Worship Team.

9:30 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Middle & High School Sunday School during the 9:30am service will meet in the sanctuary to worship together for the first 30 minutes, then move to the youth room for the lesson with Youth Director, Jon Drayd.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:30 A.M. TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Class & Serendipity Class
Researchers at the University of California have discovered that the current way much scientific research is incentivized and funded tends to reward bad science and shoddy practices. Is this a symptom of a larger problem for our society? Join the discussion with TCI and Serendipity class members while enjoying coffee and cookies.

PLEASE NOTE: TCI class will not meet December 25 or January 1.
Lively discussions, fueled by coffee and cookies, will resume January 8, 2017.

11:00 A.M. Experiencing God Class
in room 15 led by Vicki Krueger.

6:30-7:30 P.M. Bible Study in rooms 12 & 14
Will resume on Sunday, January 15. Please contact Cindy at (727) 409-8727 if you have any questions.
Order for the Public Worship of God
December 11, 2016
3rd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

WE GATHER

(Read the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Jesus says: I am coming soon.
People: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!
Leader: Look! The young woman is with child;
People: she will call him Emmanuel: God is with us.
Leader: Let us worship God.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“A Festive Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL” George Schaefer
(based on the opening hymn #88) (1919-2001)
(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(See to complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)*

*HYMN #88
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1, 2, 6, 7)

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Lighting the Candle
(8:15) Dallas, Pam, Robert & Heather Wood
(11:00) Missy, Alex & Hayden Turner

HYMN #654
“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” Taize, 1986
(sing three times)

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned: when we long for your coming to change the world, and yet are unwilling to change even our own hearts; when we dismiss prophets and angels; when we reduce our preparation to reckless expense and trivialities. Forgive us for all of this.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Come home with shouts of joyous praise;
Let now your weeping cease.
Good news will come to broken hearts,
Good news of love and peace.

Proclaim God’s favor every day,
And comfort those who mourn,
Oppressed will hear of liberty,
And hope will be reborn.

—by Lavon Bayler, Reprinted by permission of United Church Press, from Led by Love. ©1996 by United Church Press

ANTHEM

“Glory to God in the Highest” Giovanni B. Pergolesi
Liana Stephen, soprano; Alyssa Long, mezzo-soprano
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

OUR MINISTRY WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children age 3 (by 9/15) through fifth grade are welcome to go to Room 3 for Children’s Sunday School.)

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

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.

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Charles Callahan
(based on the next hymn #108)

*DOXOLOGY—#606 OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINU MYSYRIUM
(stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6)

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25 (page 783)

SERMON “What Are You GIVING for Christmas This Year?”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #123 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Wilbur Held
(based on the Advent hymn at #549) (1914-2015)
(You are invited to remain for the final act of worship, the closing voluntary. A closer look is welcomed if you wish to come stand next to the organ console.)

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU