HYMN NOTES:
Go, Tell It on the Mountain (136)
This African-American spiritual is in the typical call-and-response pattern and is a straightforward retelling of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke. The words and perhaps the music were adapted from traditional sources by John W. Work, Jr. who apparently wrote the verses as the original ones could not be found. His son copyrighted that and other songs in his 1940 book American Negro Songs. John W. Work, III took pleasure in recalling his early days as a child on the campus of Fisk University where his father was a teacher. Very early on Christmas morning, long before sunrise, it was then the custom for students to gather and walk together from building to building singing this spiritual. It was first published in a mainline denominational hymnal in the Pilgrim Hymnal, 1958 (United Church of Christ).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-2nd Grade (17/18 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 Dan Gipson & Mauricio Estavil.

1st & 2nd Grade, Room 2
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour with Jessica & Tim Jones.

3rd-5th Grade, Room 4
Students will start in the sanctuary and then move to room 4 with Justine Ruisz.

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-2nd Grade (17/18 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.

Childcare for children 3yrs-5th grade who attended Sunday school at 9:30 will be in room 2.

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 will meet this week! All youth are invited to attend worship together in the Sanctuary for the 9:30 Ignite service. We will attend service for the first 20 minutes and then move to the Youth Room for Bible Study.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
9:30 TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Class– Fred Heider will lead a discussion of the issues surrounding Prince Harry's recent engagement. Please join us for a lively "give and take". Coffee and cookies are always offered.

11:00 A.M. Experiencing God Class will meet today in room 15, led by Vicki Krueger.
Order for the Public Worship of God
December 31, 2017
1st Sunday after Christmas Day
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WE GATHER
(Please silence electronic devices. Large print bulletins and hymnals as well as hearing assistance devices are available. Ask an usher.)

CALL TO WORSHIP Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Leader: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad.
People: The whole of creation declares your glory, O Lord.
Leader: Now in our worship we proclaim your glory, your goodness and your grace, O Lord Almighty.
People: We proclaim your Kingdom to the ends of the earth, your love to the highest mountain, your forgiveness to the depths of the sea.
Leader: Let us worship God.

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” arr. Diane Bish

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 GLORIA PATRI
“Two by Two” arr. Joseph M. Martin

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN #134 “Joy to the World” arr. Diane Bish

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)
God of love, as we reflect back on this past year and prepare to live out our faith in the year upcoming, we confess our weaknesses, failures, and transgressions. Our broken promises, our selfishness and our lack of faith in our goodness and grace. O Dear Lord, for these sins of commission and omission, may you show us mercy, grant us forgiveness and by your grace empower us to live faithful lives that make a difference for Jesus’ sake in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 GLORIA PATRI
“Two by Two” arr. Joseph M. Martin

SOLO
“In Silence He Came” Joseph M. Martin
Liana Stephen, Soprano

In silence He came with grace soft as snowfall.
Hushed was creation awaiting His cry.
Singing a sweet lullaby.

*HYMN #136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Michael Burkhardt

WE SHARE

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 UNITE IN PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING “Through the Stable Door” Andrew M. Wilson
Liana Stephen, Soprano

Come with me and look through the stable door,
where the infant savior lies upon his bed of straw.
Come with me and see, born for you and me
Mary’s baby, heaven’s king, while the angels sing.

*HYMN #128 "Infant, Holy, Infant Lowly” W. ZOBIE LEZY

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:13-23 (page 784)

“We When the Celebration of Christmas Fades in the Face of Life’s Challenges”

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Michael Burkhardt

WE CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

God of love, as we reflect back on this past year and prepare to live out our faith in the year upcoming, we confess our weaknesses, failures, and transgressions. Our broken promises, our selfishness and our lack of faith in our goodness and grace. O Dear Lord, for these sins of commission and omission, may you show us mercy, grant us forgiveness and by your grace empower us to live faithful lives that make a difference for Jesus’ sake in whose name we pray. Amen.

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WE UNITE IN PRAYER

Liana Stephen, Soprano

“Yet another day in time’s long line” arr. Joseph M. Martin

When the Celebration of Christmas Fades
in the Face of Life’s Challenges

WE CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

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WE UNITE IN PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Our God (with O Come, All Ye Faithful)”

VIDEO—“New Year’s Hope”

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:13-23 (page 784)

MESSAGE “When the Celebration of Christmas Fades in the Face of Life’s Challenges”
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

SONG OF DEDICATION

“He Has Come for Us”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

aryl Stephen, Soprano

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Michael Burkhardt

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

God is love, and love casts out fear. O Chris-}

tian, let us find courage to speak the truth in love—Christ’s love, the only love that can win us for Jesus, the only love that makes us strong.

*HYMN #136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Michael Burkhardt

WE CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

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