

The Lord's Day
December 23, 2007

“Celebration of Christmas”

Prelude

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

Prayer for God's Blessing

◆**Hymn of Adoration:** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*
Trinity Hymnal #203

Call to Confession

Mark 2:17

Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of all grace, we humbly confess to you that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We confess that we have not lived our lives in devotion to you this past week. We have neglected your Word; we have been cold in our prayers; we have not allowed you to search our hearts; and we have been uncaring towards our loved ones.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ and according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. In Christ's name we pray. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

◆**Hymn of Praise:** *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*
Trinity Hymnal #207

Pastoral Prayer

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

— Andy Techentin

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

New Testament: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

◆**Hymn of Praise:** *“What Child is This”*
Trinity Hymnal #213

Sermon: *“A Big Fish, an Insignificant Couple, and the Night-Shift”*

◆**Responsive Reading**

— from Zechariah's Prophecy

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

People: **He has raised up a horn of salvation for us (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—**

Leader: to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

People: **to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

◆**Hymn of Response:** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*
Trinity Hymnal #224

◆**Prayer of Benediction**

◆**Doxology:** *“Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”*
Trinity Hymnal #731

Postlude

Sermon Notes:

Greeter this week: *Mark Doran*
Greeter next week: *Angela Belden*

Pianist: *Molly Doran*

Flowers for December: *VandenBerg family*

Church set-up-take-down responsibilities for December:
Doran family

☐ **Please Note: The Wednesday Evening Bible Study** will not meet again until after the holidays. We will resume the study on January 9th. Pastor Doll has been leading the study on ***Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love***, by Jerry Bridges.

☐ **Refreshment Table...** The church will be providing refreshments this week and next week, because of the Christmas holiday. To all of you who've faithfully brought refreshments, we thank you and give you a reprieve until the new year!

☐ **2008 OPC Winter Youth Retreat "All-Nighter"...** will be held at the downtown YMCA in Grand Rapids on January 25-26 for 7th-12th grade students and interested parents. Our speaker will be Paul Green, executive director of Hope for Chattanooga. The YMCA facility includes many amenities, including two swimming pools, a water slide, two climbing walls, two full basketball courts, squash and racquetball courts and other exercise equipment. Cost of the retreat will be \$25, so mark your calendar! Brochures will be available soon. Hope to see you there!

☐ **Biblical Nouthetic Counseling Class...** The Biblical Counseling Center of SE Michigan has scheduled its annual Spring Basic Training class in Biblical (Nouthetic) Counseling. The class is conducted in three modules, each of which meets all day on Friday (9am-9pm) and half day on Saturday (8:30am-Noon), at Plymouth Baptist Church in Plymouth. Attendance at all three modules is necessary to complete the basic course. Dates are February 15-16, March 14-15, and April 18-19, 2008. Complete information is available at: www.bcceastmi.com.

Upcoming Events

Wed, January 9 – Bible Study at Doran's, 7-9pm

Sat, January 19 – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:30-10am

Fri-Sat, January 25-26 – 2008 OPC Winter Youth Retreat "All-Nighter"