

## Order of Worship DECEMBER 4, 2022

### **Meditation – James 2:13**

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### **Songs of Adoration – 2**

#### **Call to Worship – Psalm 116:1-7 (Unison)**

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.  
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.  
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.  
The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.  
Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

### **Prayer of Adoration**

#### **Confession of Sin**

Holy God, we confess that we are not worthy of the riches of life for which generations have labored that we might enter into this heritage. We confess the sorry confusion of our common life, the greed which disfigures our collective life and sets us against our fellow humans made in Your image. We confess the indifference and callousness with which we treat the sufferings and insecurity of the poor and downtrodden, and the pettiness which mars relations between us. May we with contrite hearts seek once more to purify our spirits through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(adapted from Reinhold Niebuhr)*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

L - The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C - He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

L - He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

All - For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. *(Psalm 103:8-12)*

## **Advent Wreath / Candle Lighting**

### **Songs of Worship – 2**

### **Offering and Doxology**

#### **Old Testament Reading – Micah 6:6-8**

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Reader: "The Word of the Lord"*

*Congregation: "Thanks Be to God"*

### **Welcome / Announcements**

### **Dismissal of Children to Children's Church**

### **Song of Preparation – 1**

#### **Sermon Text – Matthew 5:7**

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

#### **Sermon – "The Merciful Receive Mercy"**

### **Song of Response – 1**

### **Benediction**