

First Church In Pembroke - Order of Worship - Sunday, December 27, 2020

# **“The Real Story... continues from Christmas Eve...”**

Pastor Rev. Re. Matthew E. Jackson

**Prelude**

*A Christmas Medley*

**Welcome and Announcements/Comments**

**Call to Contemplation**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

**Call to Worship** (the Lavon Baylor series “Led by Love” abbreviated)

P: Let us rejoice in God, the One Who is our life and salvation.

**C: *God commanded and we were created. We are children of the Most High.***

P: We are God’s people. Let us join together and praise God throughout all the earth.

**C: *God open’s our eyes to see the Light, our ears to hear, then touches our soul.***

P: Men and women, young and aged, let us sit at His feet and humbly listen to Him.

**C: *God has made us heirs of The Promise. Thanks be to God and Amen.***

**Reflection**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

**Prayer of Invocation**

(abbreviated from Lavon Baylor “Led by Love” series)

**We are calling out to You, O God, to lead us by Your Holy Spirit. We are gathering today to rejoice at Your Son’s birth, and revel in the evolution of a faith grounded the premise of rebirth and new life. Unite and guide us, O Gracious God, as we and all churches confessing You as God, Your Son Jesus as the Messiah, and the power of the Holy Spirit, shall not perish but find everlasting life, for today and hereafter, all ways and always. Amen.**

**Scripture reading:**

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3

**Call to Reflection in Preparation for hearing “more of the Real Story...”**

**Carol**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

**“The Real Story... continues from Christmas Eve...”**

It was just a few days ago when we gathered in worship and shared the “Real Story...”, in the very words of the Scriptures... about Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem, culminating in the birth of the One we have come to know as “Jesus, the Christ-child... you remember – ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!’

**Carol**     *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*

Indeed, the Christ-child was born and they named Him, Jesus, just as the angel Gabriel and the Scriptures foretold. In these verses of Luke 2, it notes “a time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child...” According to the Jewish New Testament Commentary, written by David H. Stern, “these verses record the observance of two points of Jewish law – the redemption of a firstborn son, and the purification of a mother after childbirth.”

*Now, hear the Scripture from the book of Luke 2: 21-24...*

“Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel even before He was conceived. <sup>22</sup> Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so His parents took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD.” <sup>24</sup> So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

**Carol**     *What Child Is This?*

“At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him <sup>26</sup> and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon was there.

**Carol**     *The First Noel*

*We continue the reading from Luke 2: 28-35...*

“Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. <sup>30</sup> I have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared for all people. <sup>32</sup> He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory

