

*OPENING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 130

St. Louis

*OPENING PRAYER

God who is found on silent starry nights, in the holy chaos of Pentecost, and in every season in-between, we confess that we are not sure we like this idea of Christmas in July. While in Florida we never miss the snow, it feels strange to sing carols now. It feels like we are out-of-sync with the world. Help us realize that grounding ourselves in the truth that You break into our world *should* put us out-of-sync with the world. Help remind us that the mystery of Christmas is not about a day, it is about a promise of Your presence every day. Help us let go of what others might think and sing out the good news of great joy that is true no matter what month the calendar on the wall says it is. In the name of the One who was born away in a manger, who grew and shared Your love, who faced the cross and showed us brokenness is never the last word, Jesus our brother the Christ. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE

Gla - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 Three - in - One; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

Or:

****(The congregation may be seated)****

A STORY for ALL AGES

(Following the message, children and youth are welcome to go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship with family)

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:1-17

See page 6

SERMON

Prayer, Part 1

Pastor Wes

*SERMON HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

No. 145

Irby

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

OFFERTORY

Sing Praise to the Lord
- Summer Choir -

- Robert A. Hobby

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER of DEDICATION (*In Unison*)

God of truth that transcends seasons and centuries, surround our gifts with Your wisdom and Your guidance. Help us set aside our fears, the way the shepherds did on Christmas Eve. Fears that tell us to over-book our lives, that our talents don't measure up, and our gifts are never enough. Your entrance into our world then and now reminds us that we can offer all we are; for in You we move, live, and find our fullest life. In celebration of that truth we offer all that is in these plates today and our lives everyday. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 125

Gloria

*BLESSING and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Noel X Grand Jeu et Duo - Louis-Claude Daquin
(*The congregation is invited to be seated and listen to the Postlude*)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

At 9am: GREETERS: Lee and Bettye Smith; **GUEST BOOK:** Rose Antrim; **LITURGIST:** Fred Clark; **USHERS:** Wes Curry, captain; David Nguyen; **SOUND SYSTEM;** **COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Caring for the Congregation; **CHURCH BUS DRIVERS:** Joe Coccia, pick-up; Jerry Oliver, return.

ALTAR FLOWERS, dedicated to the glory of God, are given by Carole Patterson with prayers for Skyler Duval Flowers who is struggling with health issues at this time; and by Helaine Eckstein in loving memory of her parents, Helen and George Ball, Jr., who were married July 31, 1933.

Today's Scripture Reading:

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.¹⁵ But I will not take my

steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.