

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Drew Herring

CAROLS 122 & 114

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice/Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

The Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

by Ruth Duck

Jennifer Clatterbuck

Christ is born!

**Christ is born!**

Because of this birth, life is full of promise for you and for me. Life is full of promise for our community.

**We celebrate today the presence of God's promise in our midst.**

The promise of a small child coming into a crowded, hurting world, and growing to be a liberator.

**It's the promise of you and me, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make a new presence in our world**

CAROL 148

*What Child Is This*

The Church

LOVE FEAST

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION

Luke 2: 15-21

Drew Herring

DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE

CAROLS 139 & 140

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly/Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us*

The Church

PARTING PRAYER

by Ruth Duck

Jennifer Clatterbuck

Now that the mad rush is over;

**O center of stillness and peace;**

Now that the needles are falling from the tree,

**We thank you that you are still God-with-us.**

As we face the year ahead,

**Help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives;**

Help us to make the changes we must make;

**Bring us to new places of openness and love toward you and the people around us;**

Help us to overcome the fears that keep us from the fullness of life.

**As the frigid days of January and February draw near**

Help us to keep warm places alive within us,

**Where in secret the bulbs of springtime tulips are nurtured**

As we face the year ahead,

**We thank you for one another and for your grace in Jesus Christ.**

Help us individually and as a congregation, to be signs of your compassion,

**Hope, joy, and unity in this world you love in Jesus our Christ. Amen**

CAROL 143

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

The Church

*Thank you to our special guest musician, Tim Montgomery, for assisting with worship today.*