



*The People of God in Worship  
December 31, 2017  
Eleven O’Clock in the Morning*

*The Sunday After Christmas Day!*

**THE GREETING**

The Rev. Dwight Mays

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

**THE CHIMES**

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

**THE PRELUDE**

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Clif Potter

Leader: “Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!”

**People: “Across the heavens...all you angels sing praise!”**

Leader: “Sun and moon, glittering stars, rain clouds sing praise.”

**People: “Praise God’s name, whose word called you forth and fixed you in place.”**

Leader: “From earth’s deep places, from creatures of the deep, fire and hail, snow and mist, storms, winds, mountains, hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild beasts and tame, crawling things and birds...”

**People: “...princes, judges, rulers, subjects, men, women, old and young...”**

**ALL: PRAISE THE HOLY NAME, GOD’S SPLENDOR, LET THERE BE PRAISE!**

(adapted from Psalm 148)

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 282**

*O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful*

**\*INVOCATION AND THE GLORIA PATRI**

Dr. Clif Potter and The Community

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:22-40

Dr. Clif Potter

Leader: This is the Word proclaimed to you as good news.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE EPISTLE LESSON**

Hebrews 1:1-12

Dr. Clif Potter

Leader: This is the Word proclaimed to you as good news.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE ANTHEM**

*How Great Our Joy*

Traditional German

**THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dwight Mays

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**\*HYMN OF ENCOURAGEMENT, HYMN No. 281**

*What Child Is This?*

**THE GIFTS**

\*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Dr. Clif Potter

Offertory

\*Doxology - No. 815

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**THE HEBREW LESSON**

Malachi 3:1-4

The Rev. Dwight Mays

Leader: This is the Word proclaimed to you as good news.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE**

*Is This the One for Whom We have Waited?*

The Rev. Dwight Mays

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT, HYMN #811**

*Another Year is Dawning*

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dwight Mays

**\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Gloria*

Traditional French

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

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- \* The ushers will seat those waiting.
  - \* Those who are able will please stand.
  - \* Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

**Last week's sermon outline and copies of the prayer list are in the narthex.**

### Offertory Emphasis

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship currently endorses more than 750 active chaplains and pastoral counselors serving in a variety of specialized settings. As they minister to patients, clients, soldiers, students, and prisoners, they are fulfilling, on our behalf, a vital ministry. Your mission gift supports this and many other expressions of the outreach of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Please join me in prayer.

*We uphold the chaplains and pastoral counselors who serve as the presence of Christ throughout the world and in the most traumatic times in people's lives. We join with other Cooperative Baptists in this and other collaborations of ministry. Amen.*