

January 13, 2008

The Lord then showed these persecuted exiles a place of refuge in the county of Wittgenstein. Those who came together because of persecution were at first called "Pietists," although they differed from one another. They themselves, however, called one another "brethren."
—Alexander Mack, Jr.

Gathering

Music for Meditation

*Be receptive to the Spirit of God as worship begins
with Music for Meditation*

Prelude and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing the Peace**

***Call to Worship:**

Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm

One: Come, you saints and sinners,
on this 300th anniversary of the church's beginning.
Surrender yourselves to the glory of God.

All: *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it will never know the fullness of life
that God intends for all people.*

One: Come, you who are faithful and doubtful.
Christ has lived, died, and risen
so that you may be transformed in his likeness.

All: *We offer ourselves,
our hearts, souls, minds, and strength
to the glory of God and our neighbor's good.*

One: Come, you who are wondering and waiting.
There is power in God's Spirit
to bear fruit for generations to come.

All: *The Spirit of God is upon us
to bring good news to the poor
and peace to all who are oppressed.*

***Invocation**

Larry Fourman

Praising and Adoring

***Hymn:** *God is here among us* #16

First Scripture Reading: *Matthew 18: 15-20, The Message*

Songs of Praise: *In my life, God, be glorified* #1027 (HS)
Halle, halle, halle #1028 (HS)

Confessing and Reconciling

Litany of Confession Unison #691

Proclaiming

Children's story Tom August

Scriptures: *Acts 2: 42-47; Ephesians 4: 1-6; Colossians 3: 12-17*

Message: *The Believers Church 300 years later*

Hymn: *This is a day of new beginnings* #640

Affirming Faith and Praying

"For this we rejoice..."

"For this we pray..."

Prayer for all God's children

Offering and Witnessing

Invitation to Giving Earle W. Fike, Jr.

Offertory Marilyn Mandernack & Ann Brown

***Offertory Response:** *Lord, bless the hands* #93

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sending

***Hymn:** *There's a sweet, sweet Spirit* #1142(HS)

***Benediction:**

***Sending Christ's light out into the world**

***Postlude**

*Please stand as you are able.

Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.