**HymnFest 2016**

Welcome

\*Call to Worship & Explanation

\*Song of Praise:

*343 Blessed Be Your Name*

\*Greeting

Opening Prayer/Congregational Prayer

**OLD TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS**

*Introduction:*

**Nicene Creed:**

**\*All: We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

 *4 God of Wonders*

Affirmation: How We Know God (Belgic Confession, Article 2):
 We know God by two means:

 First, by the creation, preservation and government of the universe,
 Since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book
 in which all creatures, great and small,

 Are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God:
 God’s eternal power and divinity

 All these things are enough to convict humans

 And to leave them without excuse.

 Second, God makes himself known to use more clearly

 By his holy and divine Word,

 As much as we need in this life,

 For God’s glory and for our salvation.

 *21 This Is My Father’s World*

**ADVENT EXPECTATIONS**

**\*ALL: We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made human.**

 *57 All Earth is Waiting*

Reading: John 1:1-5

 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

 He was with God in the beginning.

 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

**CHRIST’S LIFE**

VIDEO: He’s Here

 \**76 O Come All Ye Faithful (vs 1&4)*

**Dismissal of Children ages 3 to Gr 4.**

*Transition:* He grew up, was baptized, and he began to teach. And his teaching sounded different than anything they had ever heard. The world thinks that the rich are blessed ... that the happy are blest... that the powerful are blest ... Jesus had something different to say. Jesus healed and loved and taught and showed people that the best way to live was to love God and to love others ... to love others so much that you might even give your life for others ... And then he showed them that love.

**CHRIST’S PASSION AND EXALTATION**

**\*ALL: He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.**

 *161 Go To Dark Gethsemane (vs 1-3)*

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-5

 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

 He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

 Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God,

 Smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions,

 He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

 And by his wounds we are healed.

 *177 Oh, to See the Dawn*

**\*ALL: The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.**

 \**770 In Christ Alone*

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

 Whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.
 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,
 so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself

 all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**JOINING IN THE SPIRIT’S WORK**

**\*ALL: And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.**

 *232 Come Holy Ghost*

Reading: Heidelberg Q&A 53

 What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

 First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

 Second, that the Spirit is given also to me personally, so that, by true faith,

 He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me,

 And will remain with me forever.

**\*ALL: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

Reading: Romans 6:3-4

 Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that,

Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,

We too may live a new life.

 *262 I Love to Tell the Story*

Reading: John 20:1-18, 30-31

Message: Telling the Story (Singing the Story)
Prayer

 *\*361 Because He Lives (1x only)*

Offering:

**HOPE FOR THINGS TO COME**

Praise Team: As we hope for things to come, let us together complete the Nicene Creed, saying together:

**\*ALL: We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

 *474 Sing to the King*

Reading & Sending Blessing: Revelation 21:1-4

 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,

 For the first heaven and the first earth has passed away,

 And there was no longer any sea.

 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

 Prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now

 Among the people, and he will dwell with them.

 They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

 He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

 There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,

 For the old order of things has passed away.”

 Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*938 My Friends May Your Grow in Grace*