

ANTHEM: "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"

"How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far? Shall we find the stable room lit by a star? Can we see the little child, is He within? If we lift the wooden latch, little child, is He within? May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep? If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake? Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

God in His Mother's arms, sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire."

ANTHEM: "Mary Had a Baby"

"Mary had a baby, my Lord. What did she name Him, my Lord, my Lord? She named Him King Jesus, my Lord. Where was He born, my Lord, my Lord? Born in a manger, my Lord. Mary had a baby, Oh my Lord."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to share in the beauty of it.

FOR THOSE WHO SING

New members are always welcome to audition to sing in the Choir. Rehearsals are held Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the downstairs Choir Room. Some members come early and enjoy a cup of coffee together.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This morning we are celebrating the baptism of two infant boys.

Thomas Joseph DeBow, IV, infant son of Suzanne and Tom DeBow, born July 13th, 1998 at Lenox Hill Hospital, is being presented for baptism.

Matthew Michael Mauldin, infant son of Melanie and Mark Mauldin, born March 28th, 1998 at New York Hospital, is also being presented for baptism.

We welcome family, friends and loved ones of both the DeBows and the Mauldins who join with us for this special occasion.

LOOKING AHEAD

On Sunday evening, January the 17th, we shall celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. The Reverend Thomas Grissom will be with us to share his personal reminiscences with Dr. King across the years of college and social activism. Sponsored by our Outreach Committee, we anticipate a good turn-out and ask that you start signing up next Sunday so we may know how many we should plan for.

PLEDGE CARDS STILL COMING IN

Pledge cards are still being received in the church office as well as in the Sunday offering plate. If you haven't turned in your pledge card, may we encourage you to do so today.

PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

106 East 86th Street
New York, N. Y. 10028
427-5421

MINISTER

Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke

ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR

Dr. Lyndon Woodside

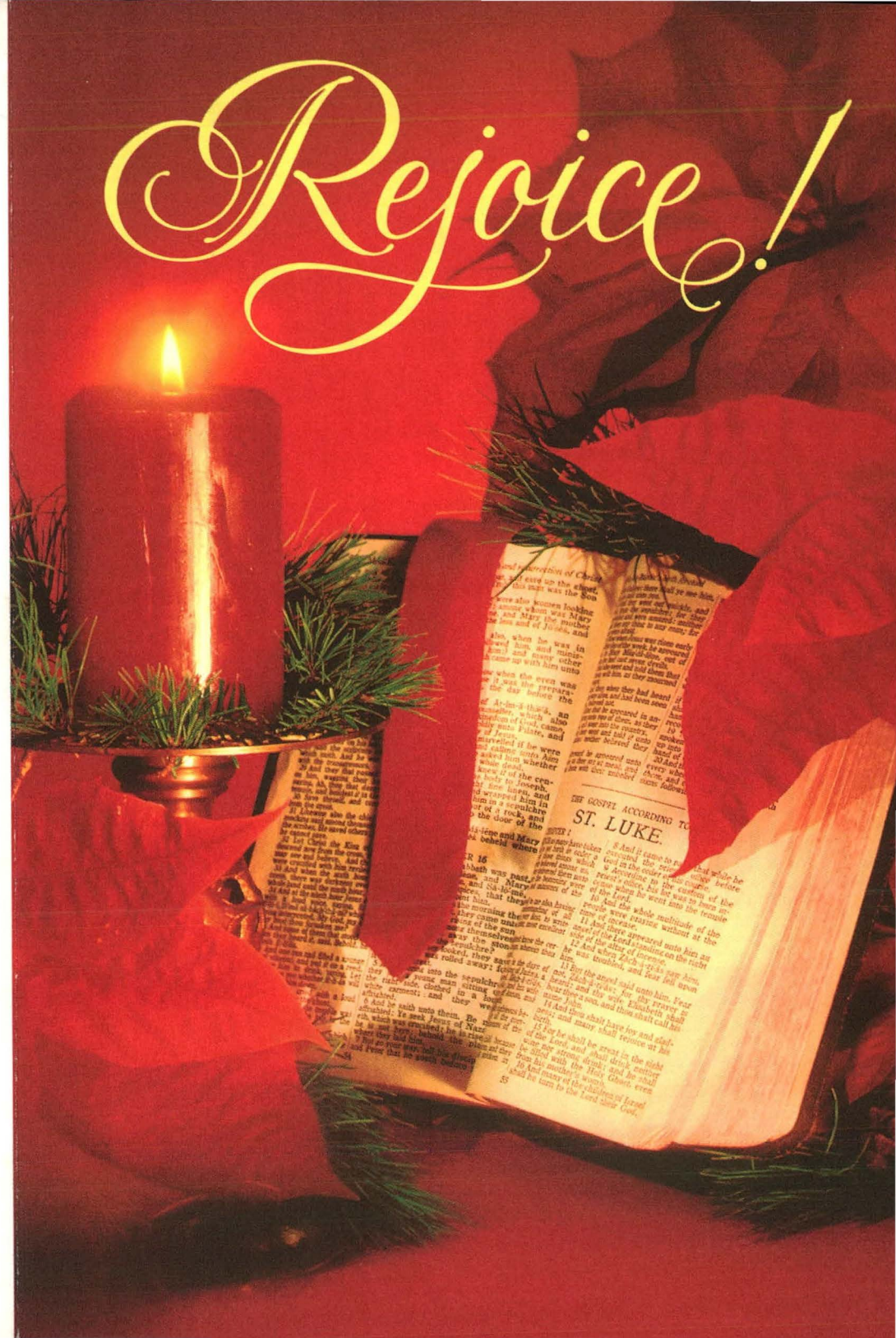
CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs. Judy Ferland

CUSTODIAN

Mr. Roberto Meriles

Rejoice!



SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 27, 1998

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11 A. M.

ORGAN "Saraband" Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 220 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Almighty God, who by the birth of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, has given us a great light to dawn upon our darkness: grant, we pray Thee that in His light we may see light to the end of our days, and bestow upon us that most excellent gift of this Christmas season, charity and goodwill to all people, so that the likeness of Your Son may always be found in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of the forgiveness of our spirit of the Christ Child, born in Bethlehem's manger long ago. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION - WORDS OF ASSURANCE - LORD'S PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

ANTHEM "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" Arr. by Shaw

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 13 - 23

PASTORAL PRAYER

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTHEM "Mary Had a Baby" Arr. by Black

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 219 "What Child Is This?"

SERMON "Viewer Discretion Advised" Mrs. Reaves

HYMN NO. 245 "The First Noel"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN "Allegro" Schmidt

*** Interval for Ushering

TODAY'S PREACHER

We welcome Susan Reaves to the pulpit this morning. A native of Virginia and a third year seminarian at Drew Theological School, Susan, and her husband, Michael, also a third year seminarian, are sharing in the life and ministry of our church this year.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are in celebration of the baptism of Thomas Joseph DeBow IV, and given with love and with thanks to all family members by Tom and Suzanne DeBow.

GREETERS AND USHERS

The greeters today are Lynn Clarke and Ken Borgeson. The ushers are Walter Spencer, Jill Gray, Beverly Judge, Nancy Trespasz and Joyce Williams.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Russell Room following the service. All are invited to share in these moments of warm fellowship made possible for us today by Nique Roosa, Dominique Camacho, Lita Reyno and Bert Williams.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday morning from ten-thirty to twelve. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available on the fourth floor.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Michael Reaves, our Assistant Minister, is class leader.