**Responsive Reading # 2 … can be used at other seasons;**

Leader: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God.”

People: Shout? We are people who shout?

Leader: Pastors and preachers tell the Bethlehem story and then they go on to tell the Galilee story and the Jerusalem story and the resurrection story.

People: We shout Peace on Earth and Hosanna and Alleluia!

Leader: Chaplains in college, prison, hospital and pastoral counselors visit the sick, accompany the troubled, comfort the grieving, inspire justice, compassion and peace-making.

People: We pray Peace on Earth and Hosanna and Alleluia!

Leader: Christian Educators and Youth Ministers pageant up, lock-in, re-treat,

play holy and rotate. They answer questions and question answers.

People: We learn Peace on Earth and Hosanna and Alleluia.

Leader: Sextons make the sanctuary sacred – shovel the snow, iron the wax from carpets, wait for the last person at a funeral. Administrators word process and listen, calendar check and listen, coordinate committees and listen.

People:We experience Peace on Earth and Hosanna and Alleluia

through greens, palms and lilies, old text and new text message.

Leader: We celebrate those who bring us good tidings so that we can lift up our own voices and vocalize -- not a solo faith but the chorus that is the church, joining the great procession of all people in all times and places. This morning we give from our abundance to those who have shared themselves with this and other faith communities. These gifts provide support in need, emergency assistance and special blessings.

People: Gracious God, we give thanks for those whose voices, minds, spirits and hands share the good tidings of Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, Pentecost, and beyond. Their care for the church is faithful in all seasons. Bless these gifts that they may express our thanks to retired and active clergy and lay employees of our churches and our willingness to lift up the love we have received and shout it out in all the world. Amen.