



**December 8, 2024**

## **GATHERING AND PRAISE**

### **Welcome**

#### **Prelude**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Holst

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

#### **Call to Worship**

Dan Ensor

How shall we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

**With hearts filled with love and peace.**

How shall we prepare for the coming of Christ?

**With prayers filled with adoration and devotion.**

How shall we prepare for the coming of our savior?

**With songs filled with joy and hope.**

How shall we prepare for the coming of God's Son?

**With worship filled with passion and spirit.**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Dan Ensor

God of our deliverance, you meet us in our need.

You fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope  
and bring low the mountains of our pride  
and conceit.

As we await your Son and the glory of your salvation,  
guide our feet in the ways of peace. Amen.

## **The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.*

### **Hymn**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211

View last page for words

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

Dan Ensor

The one who brings the peace that passes all understanding awaits. Share the longing for this peace as you share signs of Christ's love with one another.

*Please turn to those around you and greet them with the peace of the resurrected Christ.*

### **Children's Message**

Pastor Larry

### **Ministry of Music**

*A New King is Comin'*

Choir

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Dan Ensor

**The one who began a good work in us leads us into holiness and righteousness. Listen well, for God is speaking still.**

## **Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 1:18-21 and Luke 2:8-15*

**Matthew 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[d]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[e]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[f]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."

**Luke 2:8-15**

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**Hymn**

*Sanctuary*

TFWS 2164

**Sermon**

*"Our Savior"*

Pastor Larry

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **Offertory Invitation**

Dan Ensor

As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us open our hearts to share gifts of love and mercy—gifts that are pleasing to our God.

## **Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*

*The Holly and the Ivy*

English Carol

*\*Doxology*

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

Dan Ensor

**As you rescued your people of old,  
rescue us over and over again, Mighty One.**

**As you purified the saints like a refiner's fire,  
purify our lives this day and bless the gifts  
we bring before you now.**

**Through our offering, may those who sit in darkness  
find their way into the light  
of your loving arms. Amen.**

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

### **Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240

View last page for words

### **Benediction**

Pastor Larry

### **Choral Benediction**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH 230

***O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;***

***cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.***

***We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;***

***O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

### **Postlude**

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.*

***Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain.***

*O come, O come, great Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain.***

*O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
An ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall;  
All peoples on thy mercy call. **Refrain.***

## SANCTUARY

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.*

## ***HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING***

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"*

*2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"*