



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Norma Stikeleather & Nancy Bolen

Leader: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

People: We know that through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God is coming to save the world.

Leader: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive, we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

People: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

Leader: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

People: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world. (The candle is lit)

Leader: Let us pray:

People: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Light a Candle for All to See" - Hope ~L. Larson

Please sing when directed

(Sing the echo)

Light a candle for all to see. *(Light a candle for all to see.)*

The King shall come for you and me. *(The King shall come for you and me.)*

Endless hope: Emmanuel. *(Endless hope: Emmanuel.)*

And with us He shall ever dwell. *(And with us He shall ever dwell.)*

(All sing)

Emmanuel: God with us, King of kings and Lord of lords!

Come fill our hearts with Your hope and reign forevermore.

*HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

No. 82

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.

(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Friends, believe the good news...

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with others.

ANTHEM

"Comfort and Joy"

~ P. Choplin

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Matthew 13: 54-56

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Guy Named Joe"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

***HYMN** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* No. 88

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *“The Apostles’ Creed”* Hymnal p. 35

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”* No. 106

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 3)

Greeters: Winnie Theobald, Lorna Foster
Ushers: Dale Watts, Faye Hodges
Lay Reader: Dee Barham

Serving Today (Dec 10)—Communion

Greeters: Norman & Lynda Self
Ushers: Dale Watts, Faye Hodges
Lay Reader: Lorna Foster
Element Prep: Dottie Roudabush, Bernie Krecklow
Assisting Elders: Sam & Priscilla Henderson, Kerry Kerr, Lynda Self, Anne Waddell

*Those who are able, please stand.