



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lorna Foster

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

People: *Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.*

Leader: We embrace our identity as beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

People: *In our homes and in our church we offer warm hospitality by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.*

Leader: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

People: *Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.*

(THE LITURGISTS WILL NOW LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES)

Leader: Let us pray:

People: *God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore the needy, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbors, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Light a Candle for All to See" - Love ~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.)*

Gift of love: Emmanuel. *(Gift of love: 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 joy and reign forevermore.

*HYMN

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

No. 123

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God does not turn away from steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. The Rock of our salvation keeps covenant with us despite our iniquity. God's mercy is for all who humbly seek it. If we have chosen to receive forgiveness and to move away from self absorption, we will understand God's pardon and live joyously within it. 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

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Matthew 1:18-21

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

"Faith to Take a Risk"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

***HYMN** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* No. 121

***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** *"The First Nowell" (verses 1-4 only)* No. 147

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Serving This Morning (Dec 24)

Greeters: Bernie Krecklow
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD

Serving This Evening (Dec 24)

Greeters: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Element Prep: TBD
Assisting Elder: Millie Vernon

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 31)

Greeters: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD

*Those who are able, please stand.