

**2nd Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

#106, "Prepare the Way, O Zion," vs. 1, 3

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
Oh, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; re. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958.
adap. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930
Copyright:1982 Hope Publishing Company
CCLI#1963157

Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 130:5-7]

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

People: O Israel, hope in the Lord!

Leader: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is redemption.

People: There is no darkness with you, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us worship our great God!

Christmas Carol Sing

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, we confess our desire to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive when we are hurt by others. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive our failures in responding as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; and with love, as you have loved us. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Jeremiah 33: 14-16]

Leader: Hear the Good News from Jeremiah! The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we joyously proclaim, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God. Thanks be to God!

Children's Message & Lighting the Advent Candle

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #115, "Away in a Manger."
After the Advent Candle Lighting, the children may return to sit with their families.

Advent Liturgy

Readings: Rose & Carter

Leader: Christ is the light for all people.

Children: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Leader: Let us Pray...

Congregation Prayer: Dear God, when the rulers of our world are enthroned, we have witnessed the elaborate preparations made for those events. By the power of your Spirit, move us to make the preparations needed to welcome you, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, in our lives. Soften our hearts, break down our resistance. Open us anew that we may be transformed and may be agents of transformation in the lives of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Anthem

"What Child is This?" H&F Duet

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Mathew 2:1-8

2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Sermon

"Wise Men... Where will You Seek?"

Responding to God's Word

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[various prayers]

Leader: For these gifts of your love we thank you,
and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Hymn

#147, "The First Noel," vs. 1-3

The First Noel the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Refrain:
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

Text: English Carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.
Music: English Carol, *Sandy's Christmas Carols*, 1833
CCLI#1963157

*Response

#606, The Doxology, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#155, "Raise a Song of Gladness"

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

Text: Taize Community, 1978

Music: Jacques Berthier 1978

Copyright: 1979 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

CCLI#1963157

*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able