

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

Prelude "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. John Innes,

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Lighting of the Advent Candle Ann Ludvigsen and daughter, Annette Rogers

Call to Worship (Please stand) (from Malachi 3:1)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, Elder

and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight —

indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Let us worship the Lord!

Let us worship the One who is coming

***Hymn** "Prepare the Way" PH # 13

Call to Prayer and Prayer for Renewal (Be seated, responsive) Elder

God calls us to "prepare the way of the Lord" and in order to do so
we are to "make his paths straight."

While we do strive to do just these things,

we often find curves and bumps in the road along the way.

Let us confess our sin together so that God can help us

continue to prepare the way going forward....

Holy and righteous God,

far too often we are a far cry from the holiness you invite us into.

And often we fail to live up to your righteous standards

for how we are called to live.

Refine us with your righteous refiner's fire

to remove all our sinful impulses and impurities.

Cleanse us with the fullers' soap to make us pure and holy once again.

Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord.

(time for silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness (from James 5: 15-16)

Amen. We are not perfect, but we do not need to be. God in Christ is! Whit Dempsey

And God in Christ has taken care of us and this world once again:

"Every valley shall be filled ... and the rough ways made smooth."

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed!

May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

***Sung Response** "Love Has Come" GTG 110 v. 2 Tune: Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4 (pg. 915) Deacon Reader, Jeanne Miller

Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 56) Whit Dempsey

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Advent Song"
Katie Sakanai & Choir

Time with All Ages Roxanne Foster

(As the children and youth come forward, please join in singing)

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

(After TWAA, children Pre-K-6th grade may leave with Linda Valo for Kids' Kingdom.)

Sermon "Tears It's Ok to Grieve at Christmas" Rev. Whit Dempsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* **Affirmation of Faith** (Please Stand, responsive) Elder

Q: Why do you say that you are righteous by faith alone?

A: Not because I please God by virtue of the worthiness of my faith,

but because the satisfaction, righteousness,

and holiness of Christ alone are my righteousness before God,

and because I can accept it

and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.

(from *The Heidelberg Catechism*)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer Pg 16 front of Hymnal

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

Offertory "A Christmas Meditation" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Piano/Organ Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Roy E. Nolte

***Presentation of Offering** (Angels from the Realms of Glory Verse 4, No. 22)

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;

Ever more your voices raising, to th'eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion of the People

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Serving Communion

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

J.S. Bach

Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Arr. Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

Bread is taken individually. Please wait to take juice/wine together.

*White grape juice is in the outer ring of the tray; red wine in the middle ring,
and water in the center.*

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn**

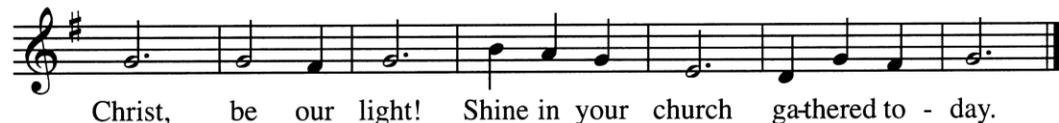
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

PH # 10

***Charge and Benediction**

*** Sung Congregational response:** *Christ, Be Our Light!*

GTG 314



Postlude

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"

Organist, Julie Pulliam

Piano/Organ Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Arr. Lani Smith

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores

Deacon Reader: Mick Domenick

Greeter: Jeff Stimson

Time with All Ages: Roxanne Foster

Check-In Desk: Roxanne Foster

Ushers: Kerry Gardner and Chuck Miller

Communion Servers: Matt Briggs, Lary Cahill, Bonnie Emge, Valerie Friedman



WPC Mission Statement

*To worship God through faith and action,
To nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
To be an extended family to all,
And to serve the community
through programs, education, and prayer.*

*Second Sunday of Advent: Peace
December 5, 2021*