

Order of Worship

December 15th, 2019

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”

Buddy the Elf

“Advent begins in the dark and yearns for the light. Advent aches for the day when we shall not learn war anymore.... And when [Jesus] comes, we shall sob. Sob with relief at his return. Sob with humiliation and sadness at what we have done to one another. But he shall not turn away to let us get ourselves together. He shall gather us up in his arms, with laughter in his eyes, and rise with us to the life immortal. And our dark hearts will no longer be dark. Our deepest desire will be to be ruled by him, who rules with grace. We will love him because he has loved us.”

Paul N. Walker

“We need communal rhythms that make deliberate space for both grief and joy. For me, the old saying rings true: Hunger is the best condiment. Abstaining, for a moment, from the clamor of compulsive jollification, and instead leaning into the reality of human tragedy and of my own need and brokenness, allows my experience of glory at Christmastime to feel not only more emotionally sustainable but also more vivid, vital and cherished.”

Tish Harrison Warren

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Preschool - Kindergarten

Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Davis, Hannah, and Winston Mooney
Zephaniah 3:14-17*

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

O Promised Christ,
our lives are filled with sin.
We overlook our neighbor’s needs
and do not love you above all else.
Our rescue depends on your coming.
We are a world divided by conflict.
Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a guilty people.
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing your will
is that you should come and empower us to do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits
for your rescue,
for your peace,

for your pardon,
for your power,
and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins . . .
you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 and Matthew 1:21

Jesus Messiah

Covenant of Membership

George Aldhizer and Rachel Roth Aldhizer
Jacob and Heather Matthews
Blake Mitchell

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Offering and Doxology

Joy

1st - 5th graders

Children ages 3 years - 2nd grade are dismissed to their worship class.

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Elizabeth Miller

Life Together

Ethan Smith

ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

“Singing in the Darkness”

Ethan Smith

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
¹³ For I have bent Judah as my bow;
I have made Ephraim its arrow.
I will stir up your sons, O Zion,
against your sons, O Greece,
and wield you like a warrior's sword.

Zechariah 9:9-13

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
All: *Thanks be to God!*

Sermon Notes

Children return to join their families

FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

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

All: *It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*

Leader: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

Lord's Supper Instructions

- The Lord's Supper is open to anyone who is trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection alone for his or her redemption.
- People come forward from the back rows first to receive the elements.
- White grape juice in cups and gluten free crackers are available at the left and right stations.
- At the middle station, you may receive from the common loaf and cup. We follow the practice of intinction where you dip the bread in the wine.
- If you need prayer, there is a group (including elders) available to pray for anyone in need of prayer in the kitchen. There is also a group of women in the room next to the Connections kiosk who can pray for women. The Lord's Supper is available in both prayer rooms.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing,

and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Adore

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26