

Service of Worship

Preparing for worship—For our spiritual edification and for the benefit of one another, let us spend the time before worship in silent preparation, meditation, and prayer, reading Scripture and familiarizing ourselves with today's Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns.

Leader: The Lord be with you!
People: The Lord bless you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

The Christmas Candle Isaiah 9:2 and John 8:12



God Calls Us

† CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Christ is born!
People: Glorify Him!
Leader: O Lord, open our lips!
People: That our mouths may show forth Your praise!
Leader: Make haste, O God, to deliver us!
People: Make haste to help us, O Lord!
Leader: Let us rise and worship God! In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen!

† INTROIT O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree, An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall; All peoples on Thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

† HYMN OF APPROACH # 193 – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*



God Cleanses Us

CONFESSION OF SIN Psalm 51:1-15

Leader: Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God:
People: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness: according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have

broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. My tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Leader: Arise, and hear the good news!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Galatians 4:4-5

Leader: Brothers and sisters, in the incarnate and risen Christ, God has promised that when we know him, even from the least of us to the greatest, he will remember our sins no more. So upon the authority of God's Word, take comfort that your sins are forgiven and your lives are rescued in our Lord Jesus Christ and His victory over the grave. Believe this, and rejoice!



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 proper and right to do so.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE AND PRAISE # 207 – *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*



God Consecrates Us

LESSON #1 Genesis 3:8-15
God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that the Seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LESSON #2 Isaiah 9:2-7
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the Prophet Isaiah.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 233 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

LESSON #3 Isaiah 11:1-9
The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 221 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

LESSON #4 Micah 5:2-5
The birthplace of the Savior and the salvation that He will bring to his people is foretold.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 201 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

LESSON #5 Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel tells the virgin Mary of God's favor.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 203 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

LESSON #6 Luke 2:1-7
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 225 *Once in Royal David's City*

LESSON #7 Luke 2:8-20
The Shepherds go to the manger.

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 214 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HOMILY *Freedom from Fear*
Pastor Jay Barfield

† HYMN OF RESPONSE # 208 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*



God Communes With Us

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
People: And His mercy endures forever!

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE
Passing of the Bread # 213 – *What Child is This*
Passing of the Wine # 162 – *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Leader: The Body and Blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith until life everlasting, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen!

† GLORIA PATRI # 735



God Commissions Us

† BENEDICTION

† HYMN OF PRAISE AND DISMISSAL #195 – *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

† The congregation will please stand

