

Order of Worship for 12/5/21

10am CST

Online at www.calvinchurch.net || via phone at (952) 208-6020 || parking lot radio on 87.9FM

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony

The Wenz & Feldkamp Families

Choral Introit

We Wait In Hope (Joel Raney)

Litany

Leader: Advent is a time to watch

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel

Leader: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel

Leader: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel

Leader: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel

Leader: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a
fallen world.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel

Candle Lighting (Leader)

This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in anticipation for God to fulfill every promise set forth in the Bible. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

Sung Refrain (all)

**We watch in hope for the morning light,
For the love of Christ to illuminate the night
We watch with joy for the Savior's birth,
We watch In hope for peace on earth.**

Advent Prayer (Leader)

God in heaven, as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation. Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us and through us. Amen.

Call to Worship

Leader: John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

People: Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of Justice and love.

**Opening Prayer
(all)**

God of the Covenant, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us. Through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

#11 Presbyterian Hymnal

1.
O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My Hope, my heart's Delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

2.
Love caused Your incarnation,
Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling
Our lost and fallen race.

3.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your Name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

**Prayer of Confession
(all)**

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act uprightly, loving you, our neighbors, or ourselves; nor do we bend our swords and

spears. Forgive, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing for the world of our Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Response

He Came Down

#2085 Sing the Faith

1.

He came down that we may have love; (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

2.

He came down that we may have peace; (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

3.

He came down that we may have joy; (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore.

First Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4 (p. 889) (p. 572)

Choral Anthem

Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring (David von Kampen)

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for our redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
came in deep humility.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
when the heav'ns shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory,
let us, then, our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing
till the dawn of endless day.
-Godfrey Thring

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 3: 1-6 (p. 60)

Sermon

Crying in the Wilderness

Pastor Dave Comstock

Affirmation of Faith

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being,

and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
– from Hebrews 1

Hymn

I Come with Joy

#507 Presbyterian Hymnal

1.

I come with joy to meet my Lord, Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

2.

I come with Christians far and near To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

3.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

4.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

5.

Together met, together bound We'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world, We'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

Offertory Call & Offertory Music

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Distribution

Communion Music

Prayer following Communion

Closing Hymn

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice #409 Presbyterian Hymnal

1.

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
Echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice,
Bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
Yield your life to God's control.

2.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
Lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
Set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
Burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour;
Wheat alone shall fill God's store."

3.

With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold
Words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
Led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John
To behold the Lamb of God.

Benediction

Postlude

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