

Order of Worship for 12/10/23

10:00am CST

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

*** Please rise in body/spirit | Congregational responses are in bold**

Unless otherwise noted, sing all verses on hymns

The beautiful floral arrangement today is in celebration of Joel & Sarah's 50th wedding anniversary which they celebrated on December 8th.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The VandeVegte Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to watch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

We Wait in Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:
Refrain

(1st Sunday) We wait in
(2nd Sunday) We watch in
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
(4th Sunday) We praise with
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the mom - ing Light,
for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____

We wait with
We watch with
We pre - pare with
We praise with
We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;

we wait in
we watch in
we pre - pare in
we praise with
we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

3

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OPENING PRAYER (all)

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.

*OPENING HYMN #13

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;

your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all)**

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of Jesus Christ,
All: We are forgiven.

***HYMN Refrain from #23**

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

New Testament page 667

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

New Testament page 34

SERMON

Rev. TJ Shirley

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Theological Declaration of Barmen

The Christian Church is the congregation of the people in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely Christ's property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

*HYMN #10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist City

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let us Your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

4 All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY CALL & OFFERTORY MUSIC

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16

SENT IN GODS NAME

*CLOSING HYMN #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

3 O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Liturgical resources from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, The Book of Common Worship* (2018), and "We Wait in Hope: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent" by Joel Raney and Rev. Rich Davis.

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