

# Order of Worship for 12/17/23

10:00am CST

Online at [www.calvinchurch.net](http://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.*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Hagan Family

## CHORAL OPENING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to prepare.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

## LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE

# CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

## We Wait in Hope *A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

**Congregation:**  
**Refrain**

(1st Sunday) We wait in } hope \_\_\_\_\_ for the mom - ing Light,  
(2nd Sunday) We watch in }  
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in }  
(4th Sunday) We praise with }  
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with }

for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate \_\_\_\_\_ the night. \_\_\_\_\_

We wait with } joy \_\_\_\_\_ for the Sav - ior's birth;  
We watch with }  
We pre - pare with }  
We praise with }  
We pro - claim with }

we wait in } hope for peace on earth.  
we watch in }  
we pre - pare in }  
we praise with }  
we pro - claim with }

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### OPENING PRAYER (all)

**God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit, be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.

4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One.

## **SPRUCE TO THE RESCUE!**

Play by Dean Ridings

### **CAST**

#### **KIDS**

Anna.....Brooke Shirley  
Joey.....Crosby LaVere  
Walter.....Walter Rhea  
Lucy.....Lucy LaVere

#### **TREE**

Spruce.....Todd Wood

#### **SINGERS**

Shepherd Singers.....Allie Shirley & Myla Wenz  
Magi.....Adeline Gagner, Vincent Gagner & Lucille Rhea

## **OFFERTORY CALL & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

## **PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Hymnal p. 16

### **\*CLOSING HYMN #27**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1 Gentle Mary laid her Child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the undefiled,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a Babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.

2 Angels sang about His birth;  
Wise men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her Child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled,  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His Name in all the earth,  
Hail the King of glory!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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