

Order of Worship for 12/24/23

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Stephanie Coe & Seth Quiggle

CHORAL OPENING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to proclaim.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST 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
(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.

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OPENING PRAYER (all)

God in heaven, we thank you for guiding us through our Advent journey. Through waiting, watching, preparing, and praising, we are now ready to proclaim. Help us to receive the glory of Christmas, as we celebrate and rejoice that you have come to us through the gift of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

2 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! [Refrain]

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

***RESPONSIVE HYMN #23**

(Congregation Remains Seated Until "Silent Night")

Angels We Have Heard on High
Refrain only

PRAYER

LESSON 1

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - Stephanie Coe

CAROL #38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,

Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

LESSON 2
CHORAL MUSIC

Micah 5:2-5 - Arlo Vande Vegte
"The Bethlehem Carol"
Arr. by Audrey Snyder

LESSON 3
CAROL #31

Matthew 1:18-24 - Sharon Keller
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

LESSON 4

HANDBELL MUSIC

Luke 2:1-7 - Joel Settles

"Away in a Manger"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

LESSON 5

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Luke 2:8-20 - Pam Vande Vegte

Jesus' Christmas Party

by Nicholas Allen

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

CAROL #38

LESSON 6

John 1:1-5; 14-18 - Crosby LaVere

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
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Whose forms are bending low,
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When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. TJ Shirley

OFFERTORY

"Salsa Noel" by Jerry Estes

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***CHORAL MUSIC**

"Peace, Peace" arr. Fred Bock

Choir introduces then congregation joins in "Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSIVE CAROL #40**

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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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