

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Belinda Breit and Donna Fike

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to praise.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

One: During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

One: During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

One: During Advent we remember God's future promises.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

11

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 pre- pare in
(Christmas Eve) We pro- claim with

hope _____ for the morn - 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 pre- pare with
We pro- claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;

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

hope for peace on earth.

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OPENING PRAYER (all)

God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises, and offer our praise to you. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all)

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. 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

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament page 56

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament page 57

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. TJ Shirley

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN #48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

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 #2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Liturgical resources from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* and "We Wait in Hope: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent" by Joel Raney and Rev. Rich Davis.

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