

Order of Worship for 12/4/23

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

Feldkamp Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to wait.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield.

One: During Advent, we wait for light in the darkness.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield.

One: During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield.

One: During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield.

One: During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

See End

OPENING PRAYER (all)

God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance, and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence. Amen

*OPENING HYMN #6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Jesus comes with clouds descending;
See the Lamb for sinner slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign!

2 Every eye shall then behold You
Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who jeered and mocked and sold You,
Pierced and nailed You to the tree,
Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,
Shamed and grieving, Shall their true Messiah see.

3 Yes, Amen! Let all adore You
High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before You,
Claim the kingdom for Your own:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus, Everlasting Christ, come down!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all)**

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Old Testament page 694

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13: 24-37

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

New Testament page 50

SERMON

Rev. TJ Shirley

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our lives... It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from God's creation... The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in humanity and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

*HYMN #5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,

As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY CALL & OFFERTORY MUSIC

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

EUCCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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...

And so we sing with all the saints on earth
and all the angels in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest...

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again...**

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory
and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

(Gluten-free elements provided on stand in front.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENT IN GODS NAME

*CLOSING HYMN #14

Savior of the Nations Come

1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, here make Your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 From the Godhead forth You came,
And return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell.
High the song of triumph swell!

3 You, the chosen Holy One,
Have ov'r sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Your kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

4 Brightly does Your manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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