



Order of Worship for 12/22/24

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**

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“The First Noel, The Angel Did Say”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Family

CHORAL OPENING

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

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 moon - 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 }
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)

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God of us all. 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)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Old Testament page 865

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament page 56

Thanks be to God!

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice...; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Amen.

*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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear & Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SENT IN GODS NAME

*CLOSING 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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Holy Night”

Liturgical resources from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* and *Book of Common Worship* (1993).

