



Order of Worship for 12/8/24

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

"There is a Fountain"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Walter & Susan Baker

CHORAL OPENING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent is a time to watch.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

One: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

One: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

One: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

One: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

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

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OPENING PRAYER (all)

Merciful God, you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #13

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, O Zion,
 your Christ is drawing near!
 Let every hill and valley
 a level way appear.
 Greet One who comes in glory,
 foretold in sacred story.
 Oh blest is Christ that came
 in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
 he comes from heaven above.
 His rule is peace and freedom,
 and justice, truth, and love.
 Lift high your praise resounding,
 for grace and joy abounding.
 Oh blest is Christ that came
 in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all)

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Gloria, in excelsis Deo;

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Come , O Come, Emmanuel”

Handbell Choir

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:67-79

New Testament page 56

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord

New Testament page 60

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. TJ Shirley

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Confession of 1967

God expressed God's love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be God's covenant people to serve God in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with God's judgments and maintained God's cause through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose for Israel and humankind would be realized. Out of Israel God in due time raised up Jesus. His

faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

*HYMN #602

Song of Zechariah

1 Blest by the God of Israel,
Who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us,
Who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise
And bring the people peace.

2 God from the house of David
A child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us
To raise us up to heaven.
Before Him goes the herald,
Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation,
The harbinger of day.

3 On those who sit in darkness
The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
Upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims
Along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
With songs that never cease!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph/
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

*DOXOLOGY #592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer**

Hymnal p. 16

SENT IN GODS NAME

*CLOSING HYMN #10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let us Your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

4 All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Put On the Garment of Praise"

Liturgical resources from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* and *Book of Common Worship* (1993) and (2018).

