

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *Hark, the Glad Sound!* setting by Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Karen & Bill Powers and Family

(As Candle Lighters come up please sing Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus No. 2 V. 1)

Advent is a time of wonder—the wonder of the promised One. On this first Sunday of Advent we light this candle for hope and we wonder,

“How do we hold on to hope when so many live in poverty and despair?”

We light this candle for hope, and we wonder,

“God is our hope!”

We light this candle for hope

and we know the wonder of the Promised One who

gives us the gift of hope even when all seems hopeless.

Arise as God’s people!

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Isaiah 2:1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established Elder
as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills.

All the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning
hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war
any more.**

O children of the living God, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

* HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* No. 210

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray...

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under
your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we
live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as
truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and reject your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE Erica MacCreagh

Amen. Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

the night is far gone, the day is near. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to new life.

*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;

All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44 Pg. 26

The word of the Lord. Deacon

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Arr. Joseph M. Martin

Ridge Ringers

TIME FOR CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

SERMON *What are you waiting for?* Erica MacCreagh

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) From Philipians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, Elder

**did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.**

Therefore God also highly exalted him

**and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

* HYMN *Prepare the Way* No. 13

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, “Forgive us our sins...”)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

