

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Worshippers who are able, please stand. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

Liturgist: Sarah Greim; Sermon: Rev. Mark Galbraith

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PRELUDE How Lovely Shines the Morning Star, Dietrich Buxtehude
BuxWV 223

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude. The Bible, which has been placed near the outside door symbolizing its place in the world, is brought to the lectern from which lessons will be read, symbolizing the place of Scripture in Christian Worship.

PRELUDE My Lord, What a Morning Richard Billingham

INTROIT Advent Message Martin How
The Sanctuary Choir

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
2. O come, O branch of Jes - se's stem, un - to your own and

Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here un-
res - cue them! From depths of hell your peo - ple save, and

til the Son of God ap - pear.
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -*

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT *The Jacobsmeier Family*

We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all God's people. With the prophet's Isaiah and Jeremiah, we watch and wait for the coming of Christ who will bring light and peace to all the world.

***HYMN** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn REJOICE REJOICE
Please see Hymn Insert

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Sarah Greim

CONFESS TO A FORGIVING CREATOR

***CALL TO CONFESSION** - Sing "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" one time.

1. Come now O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; re-con-cile all peo - ple.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: God of mercy and compassion, you invite us to join you on your holy mountain, to follow you on a new path, yet we prefer another way.

We stay close to the ways we know rather than take up something new.

L: We prefer to stake out our own path rather than watching for your way to emerge before us.

We place our trust in other guides rather than having confidence that you will show us the way. Forgive us, Lord.

L: Open a new path for us. Show us the way to your holy mountain, that we might know your ways and walk in your paths.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the new thing you are doing in our midst, and give us hearts of hope and joy that walk in your light each and every day until you come again.

Following the Prayer of Confession, please sing "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" one time.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, we are all invited to his table. I am here to announce to you that whatever you think disqualifies you from God's love has been washed away by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! I announce to you that our sins have been forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

God makes peace within us,

Let us claim it.

God makes peace among us.

Let us share it!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ushers will pick up the "Joys & Concerns" slips.

*GLORIA PATRI *Hymn 579*

ANTHEM Joy to the World Arr. Mark Wilberg
The Sanctuary Choir

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 2:1-5 *The Old Testament page 631*
Matthew 24:36-44 *The New Testament page 27*

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

SERMON Be Alert Live Alert

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND LIVES TO GOD

In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.

The Gloomy Night to Morning Yields Naji Hakim

*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND LIVES TO GOD

Those who are able, please rise singing the Doxology - Hymn Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, 592 in the hymnal.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Selected from the Scots Confession

L: God has made us his people through our baptism in the Christ. Living together in trust and hope we can confess our faith: **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. When the fullness of time came God sent his Son into this world, who took the nature of humanity. Our faith and its assurance do not proceed from natural powers within us, but are the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; whom we confess to be God, equal with the Father and with his Son, who sanctifies us, and brings us into all truth.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please respond with **Your Mercy Is Great.**

***HYMN** Let All Mortal Flesh PICARDY
Please see Hymn Insert

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Please use either of the versions of The Lord's Prayer that can be found on page 16 in the hymnal.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All are asked to commune the gluten-free bread together after everyone has been served.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Robin Ciccotelli Rev. Jack Krch

Don Dyer

**Continued...*