

Liturgy  
Sunday December 11, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

We gather in preparation for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation for joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration for we are those people who have said:

yes, to the manger,

yes, to love enfleshed,

yes, to the one incarnate for others,

yes, to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

Lighting of the Advent candles

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7

Song of Adoration: Red Book #39- "Joy Has Dawned"

Prayer of Invocation

Song of Praise: Red Book #34- "Father, Long Before Creation"

Song of Thanksgiving: Hymn #201- "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Confession of Faith

Minister: Christians, what do you believe.

**Congregation:** In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem to become one with us. In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea to teach us how to live. In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear away our sin. In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden to defeat death's power over us. In love you ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord. You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35

Confession of Sin

Minister: Let us confess our sin.

**Congregation:** Arise, shine: for your light has come. O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

—based on Isaiah 60:1-3

#### Assurance of Pardon

Hear now the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sin and trust in Christ: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid. Thanks be to God.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Mr. Rick Moore

Song of Preparation: Hymn #225- "Once in Royal David's City"

Sermon: Guest pastor: Rev. Ed Veldhuizen, "The Visitation"

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Notes:

#### The Lord's Supper

Invitation to Communicants  
Words of Institution  
Distribution of the elements  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### The Collection of Tithes and Offerings

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people."

(-based on Psalm 116:12, 14)

Closing Song: Hymn #731- Doxology

#### Benediction

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may He so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

—based on 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13