

Liturgy
December 18, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Special Music: "Christ is Come" - Sierra View Choir

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near. We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming. Let us worship God!

—based on Philippians 4:4-5

Lighting of the Advent candles

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-3

Song of Adoration: Hymn #208- "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Prayer of Invocation

Song of Praise: Hymn #211- "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

Confession of Faith

Minister: Christians, what do you believe?

Congregation: Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, he was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Come, Lord Jesus, we are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. Our world finds rest in you alone.

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Confession of Sin

Minister: Let us confess our sin.

Congregation: Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear now the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sin and trust in Christ: As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, we long for the day when death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. As we wait expectantly for Christ's promised return, we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Mr. Rick Moore, Ruling Elder

Special Music: "Offering" - Sierra View Choir

Song of Preparation: Hymn #213- "What Child is This"

Sermon: Guest pastor: Rev. Ed Veldhuizen, "Mary's Song of Praise"

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Outline

1. A Song of Gratitude (Luke 1:46-49)
2. God's Power and Judgment (Luke 1:50-53)
3. God's Redemption: Past, Present, and Future (Luke 1:54-55)

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to Communicants

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Collection of Tithes and Offerings

"Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received."—based on Psalm 111:1

Closing Song: Hymn #733- Doxology

Benediction

"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."—based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24