

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday December 5, 2021 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)



**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

**CANDLE LIGHTING - The Candle of Peace**

L: We walk in darkness

**C: And look for the coming light.**

L: We turn to the Lord with weeping and mourning

**C: As we see our brokenness and the brokenness around us.**

L: We need peace, O Lord. We look to you for graciousness and abundant love, O Lord, give us a vision of how your world can be when people are grasped by your Spirit. We light the first candle, candle of hope, and now the second candle, the candle of peace. Let us pray

**C: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and lead us to our true home, your Kingdom. Broaden our love and show us your presence even in surprising places. May the light of this candle show us your dreams and visions that we may boldly proclaim your mercy, peace, and love. Amen.**

**HYMM # 282** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear - vs. 1 & 4*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

L: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

L: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**C: Amen.**

**+HYMN #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway***

## **GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also, with you.**

**+ KYRIE pg. 138**

**+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140 *"This is the feast..."***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

**C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Song: *Bethlehem Highway (Praise Team)***

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)**

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 3

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the

wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

**+C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**Choir Anthem – “Of the Father's Love Begotten”**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN #276** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**+ NICENE CREED** (pg. 104)

**THE PRAYERS** (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**”)

**OFFERING – We Believe (Praise Team)**

**OFFERTORY #182** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

## **MEAL**

**+ OFFERING PRAYER: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

**+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (pg. 144)

**+WORDS OF INSTITUTION.**

**+ THE LORD'S PRAYER** (pg. 145) (right hand column)

**+COMMUNION** *Breath of Heaven* (Praise Team)

**+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **COMMUNITY WORD**

#### **+BLESSING**

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

**C: Amen.**

**+HYMN #244** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

#### **+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Psalm 126, A Harvest of Joy

**Tuesday,** Isaiah 19:18-25, Israel, Egypt, Assyria Blessed

**Wednesday,** Isaiah 35:3-7, The Return of the Redeemed

**Thursday,** Isaiah 12:2-6, Thanksgiving and Praise

**Friday,** Amos 8:4-12, Warning for Ignoring the Poor

**Saturday,** Amos 9:8-15, God's Judgement

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

**“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’ -Luke 3:4**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

- When have you seen or experienced new life in yourself or someone else? (Luke 3:6)
- Can you think of a time you were a messenger who prepared the way for good news? (Mal 3:1)
- If “thoughts and prayers” seem trite, who might you consider telling “I hold you in my heart”? (Phil 1:7)

**PRAY:** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BLESS:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.