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## **Order of Worship**

**December 24, 2024**

### Reflection

What is this gospel, this good news, at which we must gaze? A Savior is born. If you want to get over your fear of rejection and failure and be filled with his love, if you want to be completely forgiven and lay down the melancholy burden of self-justification, you have to rest in him as your Savior.

-Tim Keller

### Welcome

### Prelude

*Please use this time to prepare your heart for worship.  
Remember to silence your electronic devices at this time.*

### Call To Worship

Minister: All God's people — boys and girls, women, men, old and young:

**People: Come and worship!**

Minister: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

**People: Come and worship! Come and worship!**

Minister: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**People: Come and worship, come and worship Christ,  
the newborn King!**

## Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath                      *The Christ Candle*

*Isaiah 62:6-12*

*Titus 2:11-14*

Reader: We light the last candle of Advent, the Christ Candle. We light these candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

The First Lesson    *Genesis 3:8-19*

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise but that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Carol    *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Second Lesson

*Genesis 22:15-18*

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed all  
the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Carol

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

The Third Lesson

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

*The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.*

The Fourth Lesson

*Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9*

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Carol

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heavens' all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heaven and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace, their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

The Fifth Lesson

*Luke 1:26-38*

*The Angel appears to Mary.*

Carol

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

The Sixth Lesson

*Luke 2:1-20*

*The Christmas story according to Luke*

Carol

*What Child is This?*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Carol

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind,  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring



To you and all mankind,  
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line,  
The Savior, who is Christ, the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign,  
And this shall be the sign.

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song,  
Addressed their joyful song.

"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace:  
Goodwill henceforth, from heav'n to men,  
Begin and never cease,  
Begin and never cease!"

The Seventh Lesson

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*The wise men are led to Jesus.*

Carol

*Joy to the World!*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

The Eighth Lesson

*John 1:1-14*

*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

The Prayer

The Offertory

The Homily

*Rev. Daniel Rose*

Carol

*How Great Our Joy!*

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy joy! Joy, joy joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. (Refrain)

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
This Child who shall redeem us all. (Refrain)

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)

Carol

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heav'n afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

### Benediction

### Postlude

*Please extinguish your candles and place them in the  
receptacle provided.*

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