

Order of Service
December 3, 2023

The Advent Wreath

Reader 1 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

All Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Advent Wreath Hymn Hope is a Star (VU 7)

- I. **Hope is a start that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Reader 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.

(Isaiah

9:2)

Reader 2 We light this candle to remind us of the hope of all people for a Saviour who will bring us freedom and peace. This hope was promised by the prophets of the Old Testament, who shared their vision of justice coming to the earth by the mighty acts of God.

The first candle is lit.

Reader 2 *Let us pray.* Loving God, you awaken in us the desire for the coming of your Son Jesus. May he kindle in us the light of his love, and bring the kingdom of peace and justice you promise for the whole earth.

All Amen.

Welcome & announcements

- * Land Acknowledgment
- * Celebrations & Concerns
- * Birthdays & Anniversaries
- * Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: Watchman, tell us of the night

(Tune: VU 48)

- I. **Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are;
Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height**

see that glory beaming star
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of hope or joy foretell?
*Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel. (2x)*

2.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet the star ascends;
Trav'ler, blessedness & light,
peace and truth its course portends
Watchman will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth
*Trav'ler ages are its own,
see, it bursts o'er all the earth. (2x)*

3.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn;
Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight;
doubt and terror are withdrawn
Watchman, let thy wand'ring cease,
hie thee to thy quiet home!
*Trav'ler, Lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come. (2x)*

Welcoming Christ - Passing the Peace

The ministry of music

Carol: Go, tell it on the mountain
VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

I

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R

2

The shepherds feared and trembled

when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

3

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R

A time for all God's children

The offering

"In Gratitude & Humble Trust" (tune: VU 75)

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.**

**O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

Dedication of the Offering

Today's bible reading: *Paul's Letter to the Romans 13: 11-14*

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

May God bless to our understanding this reading of Holy Scripture

Amen

Sermon: "Waking Well"

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Feast

Sung Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (VU 62 "Once in Royal")

I.

May the Lord our God be with you.

May God also be with you.

Let us lift our hearts and voices.

Yes! We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks and praise
to God almighty, Lord of Love.

2.

We give thanks to you Creator,
maker of the heavens and earth.

You have formed us in your image,
breathed into us holy breath.

With your people in earth and heav'n

We lift up your holy name

3.

**Holy, Holy God of power,
heaven and earth are full of thee
Blessed is the one you sent; Hosanna.
in the highest praise!**

**Holy are you, and most blessed
Father, Son and Holy Spirit!**

Spoken Prayer of Consecration

4.

**In remembrance of these acts, We give
ourselves in thanks and praise.**

**Holy living sacrifices,
we proclaim faith's mysteries:**

**"Christ has died and Christ is living,
his advent is our thanksgiving"**

Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer & The Benediction

**Closing hymn: Lo, he comes with clouds descending
VU 25**

|

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!

Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

God appears on earth to reign.

2

Every eye shall then behold you,

robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

3

Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

4

Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.