

**DECEMBER 22, 2025** 

7:00 PM

Prelude

Kelly & Darryl Roenicke violin & piano

Welcome

Rev. Sarah Alexander

Call to Worship

Martha Piesko

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in

trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the world

around us changes.

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God.

People: In this season of waiting, we come seeking quiet,

healing, and peace.

Hymn #700

Abide With Me

#### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: We light this candle to remember those we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, and their voice. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking the gift of hope to abide with us.

People: Emmanuel, meet us here.

Leader: We light this second candle to redeem the pain and loss: the loss of relationships, jobs, and health. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking the gift of peace to abide with us.

People: Emmanuel, meet us here.

Leader: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We recognize the poignancy of memories, grief, sadness, hurts, and pain of reflecting on our mortality. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking the gift of joy to abide with us.

People: Emmanuel, meet us here.

Leader: We light this fourth candle in reconciliation to those relationships we have hoped to turn out differently, whether due to loss or estrangement. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking the gift of love to abide with us.

People: Emmanuel, meet us here.

### **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 43:1–3a

Katie Kirkpatrick

In Advent, we remember that God enters our world not only in joy, but also in vulnerability, meeting us in deep waters and walking with us through the fire. Hear these words of promise

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Meditation

Rev. Sarah Alexander

Hymn #221

In the Bleak Midwinter

### **Communion and Candle Lighting**

The Great Thanksgiving

MH pg. 15

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

# **Candle Lighting of Remembrance and Hope**

After you receive the elements of communion, you are invited to light one of the votive candles. Lighting a candle may represent your burdens, griefs, sorrows... Those things that make Christmas a difficult time for you. As you light a candle, you may speak the name or the event if you wish. You may return to your seat when you have lit your candle or candles

**Closing Words** Romans 15:13

Hymn #196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Benediction

**Postlude** 



## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Embracing the example of Jesus, we welcome you here with hearts that know no boundaries of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, or economic circumstance.

Rev. Dr. Charles S.G. Boayue, Jr., Senior Pastor

Rev. Sarah Alexander, Associate Pastor Rev. Rachael M. Dunlap, Associate Pastor Rev. Zack L. Dunlap, Associate Pastor

Casey Proch, Executive Director Worship, Music & Operations

Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller, Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish & Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,

Pastors Emeriti

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