

Fear not
for behold, I bring you
Good News
of Great Joy



Luke 2:10

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025

GOD CALLS US
TO WORSHIP

We prepare our hearts to come in the Lord's presence, and orient ourselves to worship.

Our worship begins with a scriptural call for God's people to worship. In this way, our gathered worship is a conversation initiated by God between himself and his people.

We humbly ask Jesus to preside and to represent us before the Father. We ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and inform us and dedicate the service to the Lord.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Peace is the legacy which Christ gave to his disciples: 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.' And after his resurrection, the first time he met with his disciples when assembled together, he said, 'Peace be unto you.' He gives peace not as the world gives. He is the PRINCE OF PEACE, and his gospel is the 'gospel of peace.' It is called 'the peace of God,' because he is its author. It is a sweet and gentle stream which flows from the fountain of life beneath his throne. Happy is he who has received this heavenly gift; it will, in the midst of external storms and troubles, preserve his mind in a tranquil state. It is independent of external circumstances. It is most exquisitely enjoyed in times of affliction and persecution." - Archibald Alexander (1772-1851), 'The Peace of God'.

† CORPORATE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:68-69, 79

All: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David...to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Leader: Let us together worship the God who came to give us peace and rest in Him.

† CORPORATE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: God of Israel, with expectant hearts we your people await Christ's coming. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.¹

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Angels' Candle

Judah Etheridge, Sam Carter, & Jenny Bea Carter

Luke 2:8-14

† HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn No. 214

† CONFESSION OF FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. No. 37

Leader: Let us declare together what we believe. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

All: Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to Himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Henry Thornton (1760-1815)

Leader: Let us confess our sins together before our God:

All: We have great reason, O Lord, to be humbled before you, on account of the coldness and insensibility of our hearts, the disorder and irregularity of our lives, and the prevalence of worldly affections within us. Too often we have indulged the tempers which we ought to have subdued, and have left our duty unperformed. O Lord, be merciful to us for your Son Jesus Christ's sake. Produce in us deep repentance, and a lively faith in that Savior who has died for our sins, and risen again for our justification. Amen.²

SILENT CONFESSION OF PERSONAL SIN

PROMISE OF PARDONING GRACE

Zephaniah 3:14-15

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Comfort and Peace

Lyrics pg. 6

We are a Confessional Church. We choose to stand shoulder to shoulder with those saints who have gone before us. We embrace the timeless doctrinal truths of the Gospel.

GOD CLEANSES US

Within the context of our relationship with God, we are invited in safety, not shame, to consider our sins. God loves us in spite of our sins. We rehearse this truth each week by confessing our sins corporately and leaning into his renewal, restoration, and cleansing.

The scripture that follows our confession assures us of God's forgiveness, grace and pardon. This is the good news.

GOD
COMMUNICATES
WITH US

God's Word itself has power. The Preaching of God's Word is one of the chief means of grace by which God's people grow.

GOD
COMMUNES
WITH US

If you are a baptized Christian and member in good standing of a gospel-believing church, we invite you to participate with us in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If this doesn't describe you, please use this part of the service to consider the grace and forgiveness that Christ offers.

GOD
COMMISSIONS
US

Our worship concludes with God's sending us into the world with his blessing as we seek to love our community.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIP THROUGH THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Scan QR on the back to give online

† DOXOLOGY & DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Children, ages 4 – 1st grade, may be dismissed for Children's Church.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Music on pg 7

READING OF GOD'S WORD

Romans 5:1-6
Bible pg. 1198

PROCLAIMING & HEARING GOD'S WORD

Rev. Villarreal

TO BRING PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

"Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you.'"

"Jesus said, 'This is the blood of my covenant.'"

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Hymn No. 203

† BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Leader: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

† Please Stand

1. Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, © 2004, CRC Publications.
2. Jonathan Gibson, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: A Liturgy for Daily Worship from Advent to Epiphany (Crossway, 2023), pg. 255

PREACHING: Rev. Bryan Villarreal

LEADING WORSHIP: Rev. Dave Vosseller

Romans 5:1-6

Theme: We live from peace not unto peace.

I. Peace (v. 1)

II. Access (v. 2)

III. Hope (vs. 3-5)

CHORAL ANTHEM

Comfort and Peace

Comfort, comfort now my people, speak of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort those who in darkness burdened under sorrow's load.
Hear the voice of one who cries out in the desert far and near,
calling all to full repentance for the Kingdom now is near.
Come, make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and faithful as befits God's holy reign.
To God's people now proclaim that peace and comfort wait for them!
For the glory of the Lord shall come to reign forevermore.
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, unto us a Son is given.
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, unto us.
And the government shall be upon His Shoulder; and His name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace;
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
"Comfort, comfort now my people, speak of peace!" so says our God.

Lloyd Larson
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HYMN OF PREPARATION

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung;
It came, a flow're bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind;
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Saviour,
When half spent was the night.

3. This Flow'r whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True Man, yet very God;

From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

4. Praise, honour to the Father,
The Son, the Holy Ghost!
May Mary, as God's mother,
By all be highly blessed.
He who in manger lay,
Away God's wrath he turneth
And changeth night to day.

5. O Saviour, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of Glory,
Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length we pray,
To the bright courts of Heaven
And to the endless day.