



For he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **!Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

Leader: We come from a world of darkness.

*Dennis Lesher*

**All: Into Christ's world of light.**

Leader: We come from a world of weariness.

**All: Into God's strength and hope.**

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

**All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ!**

### **Hymn of Praise<sup>128</sup>    *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

*It came upon the midnight clear, tthat glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still thru the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*And 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:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heav'n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

### **Confessing**

**God invites us to be honest with Him**

## Prayer of Confession

*Dennis Leshar*

Lord Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

## Time for Silent Confession

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Dennis Leshar*

Almighty God, by whose providence  
our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility,  
will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.  
**Amen.**

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **† Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*

## Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation** What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

## **Offering**

*\*Please place your offerings in the plate in the back of the church on your way out.*

**Offertory**            *Child of Peace*  
                             *Solo—Pamela Johnson*

## **‡Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

## **‡Prayer of Dedication**

God of hope,  
you gave your Son to free a lost world.  
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.  
You give us hope for a future  
free of pain, sorrow, and tears.  
You promise us a future with you.  
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.  
May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see  
the goodness of knowing you.

## Proclaiming

***God speaks to us through His Word***

## Prayer of Illumination

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

- 11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2** And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- 9** They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.
- 10** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—

of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

## Hymn of Response

### *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*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 Flower bright, Amid the cold of winter,  
When half gone was the night..*

*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 Savior,  
When half gone was the night.*

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, From sin and death  
He saves us and lightens every load.*

## New Testament Reading *John 14:27, 16:33 and Colossians 3:15-17*

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

<sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Sermon

*"The Promise of Peace"*  
Rev. Tim Latham

### Responding

*We respond to God's Word*

## Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!**

## Invitation to the Table

### Distribution of Elements

*(Prepackaged Communion elements are in your pew.)*

*(\*Please dispose of your used communion packaging when leaving Worship. Waste receptacles are located at the top of the stairs)*

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

## !Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

**People: We believe that God fulfilled the promise that He made to the early fathers, by the mouth of His holy prophets, when He sent His only and eternal Son into the world. The Son took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, truly assuming a real human nature,**

**with all its weaknesses, except for sin. He not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned, but also a real human soul, in order that He might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, He had to assume them both to save them both together. He is truly our Immanuel - God with Us.**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

### **Commissioning**

***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

## **Hymn 135      *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.”*

*“All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace:  
Good will henceforth from heav’n to men,  
Begin and never cease, Begin and never cease.”*

**‡ Benediction & Blessing**

**‡ Organ Postlude**