

+ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD +

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ **PEACE**

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way;

the messenger of the covenant is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Sing aloud, O people, and shout for joy!

The Lord our God is in our midst.

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance;

he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk

and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

✦ **HYMN #96**

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us

and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.

We have not always determined what is best

or made way for your reign

in our lives, our church, and our society.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us.

[continue in silence, personal confession...]

HYMN RESPONSE

Verse 2 of Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,

who orderest all things mightily:

to us the path of knowledge show;

and teach us in her ways to go.

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

✦ **HYMN RESPONSE**

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

✦ **HYMN #104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

+ PROCLAIMING THE WORD +

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-4

INTERLUDE

✦ **GOSPEL READING**

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

+ RESPONDING TO THE WORD +

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed [page 35]

✦ **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord's Prayer [page 35]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

✦ **HYMN RESPONSE**

Verse 2 of #15 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,

make music for your Lord to hear.

Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

✦ **HYMN #87**

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

✦ **BENEDICTION**

✦ **POSTLUDE**

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✦ PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE



RAMAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

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Sunday, December 9, 2018
2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship Leadership:

The Reverend Brian Copeland

The Director of Music: Tim Ward