

# Order of Worship

1st Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024



**Gathering and Welcome** *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Susan and Fulton Jones  
Jennica French

**Prelude** *Ding Dong Merrily on High* – arr. Mark Hayes

Jessye Whitis, pianist

**Chime Choir** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* – arr. Patricia A. Sanders

Bruce Vineyard, director

**\*Call to worship** (based on Luke 21:25-28)

Christ is coming!

**We see the signs!**

Christ is coming!

**We will be ready!**

Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

**Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

**\*Advent Hymn # 83** *Come, Thou Long - Expected Jesus*

**\*Call to confession**

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

**\*Prayer of Preparation**

**All: Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **\*Prayers of Penitence**

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**All: Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## **Assurance of pardon** (2 Corinthians 5:17; *Book of Common Worship*)

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.”

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

## **Choral Anthem** *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* – by Natalie Sleeth

## **Prayer for illumination**

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

## **Scripture readings** Isaiah 64: 1 – 9; I Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

## **Sermon** **Advent Series: The Messiah**: *Music To Our Ears*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

## **Affirmation of faith** (*Book of Common Worship*)

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### **Call for the offering (2 Peter 3:8-15)**

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.”

Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

*Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten* – 13<sup>th</sup> century plainsong

**\*Doxology # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

### **Prayer of dedication**

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Thanks # 643 Now Thank We All Our God**

### **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

#### **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All: and also with you.**

**Let us offer one another a sign of peace.**

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**All: Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.  
Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**All: we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

#### **Giving of Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Loving Father,  
your Son Jesus Christ has come to us  
in word and Spirit, in bread and cup.  
Make us holy  
and bring us to perfection,  
when we stand before him  
as he comes to judge the living and the dead,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**  
**Generous God,  
you have fed us at your heavenly table.  
Set us on fire with your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine like lights before his face;  
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.  
Amen.**

#### **\*Advent Hymn # 88 *O Come, O Come Emanuel***

#### **The Dismissal**

Our Lord says, I am coming soon.  
**All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**  
May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.  
**All: Amen.**  
May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy;

and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A service from New Patterns for Worship.*

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**Postlude** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Jessye Whitis, pianist

*Presbyterian Outlook, 2024*

*Portions of the Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.*