



## PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

### CENTERING PRAYER

*Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*(\*)Please rise as you are able.*

### OPENING SENTENCES

The day of the Lord is surely coming;  
the promise of God will be fulfilled

### SIXTY SECONDS FOR SERVICE

**PRELUDE** The Work of Christmas Dan Forrest  
Zay Warren, baritone

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Say to those of a fearful heart:  
Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
**Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!**  
Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees:  
Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
**Behold! In splendor the Lord dwells among us!**  
The barren lands burst into bloom;  
the desert erupts with delight.  
We join creation's song:  
**With joy in our hearts, let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (v.1) 82

### \*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Block Family

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in joy,  
the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.  
**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**

**\*RESPONSE IN SONG** Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85  
**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of Glory.**

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.  
You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our  
foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your  
presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless  
when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to  
sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful  
hearts, strengthen our weak hands and make firm our  
feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.

### \*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of  
redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.

### \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

May hope, love, joy, and peace be yours this day and always.  
The peace of our coming Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** "People Look East" 105

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is plated there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**EPISTLE** James 5:7-10 Pew Bible NT p. 231  
This is the Word of the Lord! Campbell Wilson  
Thanks be to God!

**\*HYMN** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (v.2) 82

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 35:1-10 Pew Bible OT p. 663  
This is the Word of the Lord!  
Thanks be to God!

**SERMON** "Something Good Comin"

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Hymn of Promise) 250

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Based on The Confession of 1967  
God expressed love for all humankind through Israel,  
whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in  
love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God  
disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained  
covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true  
believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a  
destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and  
become a light to the nations. The same witness  
proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant  
of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head Ralph B. Hastings

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** 113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN** Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing (v. 1) 546

### Service for the Dissolution of a Pastoral Call

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:  
In your world,  
**be present, Lord.**  
In this congregation,  
**be present, Lord.**  
In this community,  
**be present, Lord.**  
In this presbytery and the whole church,  
**be present, Lord.**  
In the homes and hearts of all your people,  
**be present, Lord.**  
Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord: