

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayers.

KYRIE 574

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Word is very near to us, in our hearts and on our lips. In Christ, we are forgiven; our lives are made new, and our future of hope and peace is restored. And so I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA, GLORIA 576, sing twice

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Staying in our seats, I invite you to turn to your neighbor and greet each other with the Peace of Christ.

... TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Chancel Choir Members

CHILDREN'S SERMON

All children/youth are dismissed to Sunday School Fellowship following the Children's Sermon.

HYMN 322, seated

Spirit of the Living God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Smoothing Our Rough Ways

Rev. Hatch

... TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN 513

Let Us Break Bread Together

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: It is truly right to give our thanks and praise . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks and praise, O God that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Nourish and fill us with your grace that we would be daily reminded of your call to repentance in our lives of faith as we prepare now for the gift of a Savior. Amen.

... TO RESPOND IN FAITH

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN 535, Sing Twice

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (SHARING JOYS AND SORROWS)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayers.**

... TO GO OUT TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN 53

What Child Is This?

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG 333

Seek Ye First

POSTLUDE

As you leave, please place your tithes and offerings in the collection plate.

**Please Stand If You Are Able*

Announcements:

Poinsettia Orders: Deadline has been extended . . . order forms are due, today, December 5th – You may place your completed order forms in the folder on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Christmas Play: Christmas season is here!! Do you want to be a part of the annual Christmas Eve play 12/24 @ the 6pm service? We will need actors, actresses, prop help and general helpers!! If interested...please contact Cyndi McDowall ASAP!!!!

Christmas Gifts: Help us provide for two local families this Christmas. Gift tags are available on the cross in the narthex. All unwrapped gifts due back by Dec. 8.

Reminder—with the exception of fully vaccinated worship leaders and singers, all congregants are required by Session to wear masks while in our facilities. *Let's do our best to keep each other safe!*

Organist: Brad Bondor **Ushers:** Cyndi Accardi & Flora Nielsen
Worship Assistant: Steve Cameron **Minister:** The Rev. Nicholas Hatch

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Sanctuary

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Lyons Family

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

One: A choir sings in the silence,

All: "Come, Emmanuel."

One: Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole,

**All: for peace is stronger than turmoil,
and love is louder than hate.**

One: As we light our second Advent candle,

All: we pray for the holy peace of God.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In Jesus Christ,

All: God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin.

Leader: With humility and hope

All: let us make our confession and strive for peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord.

... TO PRAISE AND CONFESS

*HYMN OF PRAISE 9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*ADVENT PRAYER

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE, please sing

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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