



# ✠ THE SERVICE ✠

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BELLS PRELUDE

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
Anita Burnaford, soloist

arr. Ashley Danyew

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)*

### ↓ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Just as the prophet Habakkuk yearned for the hope that God's peace might bring,

**So, we, too, yearn for the hope that we find only in you, O Lord.**

*(The first candle is lit)* We light this candle as a sign of the hope that others may know that we are watching, waiting—hopefully looking upon the rampart for God's sign.

**And we see this light for what it is—a beacon to share, so that even a runner might understand its message plainly. The Christ child is coming!**

### ↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

With humility we confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

God of promise and hope,

**So often we fall short, failing to be all that you have created us to be. We pester you with questions, "Why?" and "Where are you?" We lack faith in your promises of deliverance and hope. Forgive us for all that we have done to harm you, others, and ourselves. Walk with us in the time of Advent, so that through our journey we may be made clean.**

Our holy Lord God knows we are weak, frail creatures. Yet God loves us and refuses to give up on us. Because of God's persistence we are made new again and again. Receive today the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Walk with God on your human journey, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### ↑ GATHERING

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

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### ↑ GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**↑ KYRIE**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**A-men.**

**↑ HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.*

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**God, we are sometimes impatient for you to act according to your vision for the earth. Give us wisdom to see your will unfolding, and boldness to be a part of your solution. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**↓ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Following the Children's Message, parents of children who are six or younger are welcome to take their children to child-care and retrieve them for communion. (10:30 worship service only)*

**✠ WORD ✠****↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**↑ GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and

began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ **PRIMARY READING**

**Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6, 17-19**

<sup>1</sup>The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. <sup>2</sup>O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? <sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. <sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. <sup>2</sup>Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. <sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. <sup>4</sup>Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

<sup>3b</sup>God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. <sup>4</sup>The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where his power lay hidden. <sup>5</sup>Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind. <sup>6</sup>He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low. <sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup>God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

↓ **SERMON**

↓ **HYMN**

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

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↑ **APOSTLES' CREED**

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*(The congregation is encouraged to take the position which is most prayerful to you.)*

Prayer Leader: God of wisdom,  
Congregation: hear our prayer.

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

↓ OFFERING

*An Advent Prayer*

by Allen Pote  
Choir Anthem

*Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.  
Come holy Jesus and make us pure within.  
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise,  
Enkindle a flame anew.  
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives,  
Show us the joy of living life in you.  
Amen*

↑ PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Hymn *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*\*tune of From Heaven Above #268*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above you heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost*

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**We bring you these gifts, loving God, though at times our efforts feel woefully deficient for the needs in our midst. Take these signs of compassion and multiply them for your good purposes, even as you continue to use our gifts, our time and all that we have in service to your kingdom's glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

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

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

↑ PREFACE FOR THE DAY

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**↑ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY                      Page 153**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
heav'n 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.***

**↑ JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**↑ LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**God, the Lord, is our strength! Rise up and renew your hope! Come and be fed at our savior's table and be nourished by his life-giving body and blood!**

**Thanks be to God!**

**↓ DISTRIBUTION**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. Dip the bread into the cup (intinction). **Gluten-free wafers and a gluten free common cup are offered for those who have need. Please indicate your need to the pastor as you approach to receive the host.** If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing or remain seated.*

**↓ LAMB OF GOD**

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***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

**↓ Distribution Music**

**silence**

**↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

### ↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sovereign God,

**in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ✠ SENDING ✠

### ↑ BLESSING

The love of God surround you; the grace of ✠ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### ↑ HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**#264**

### ↑ DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ↓ POSTLUDE

*King's Weston (At the Name of Jesus)*

Robert J. Powell b. 1932

*Many worshippers choose to stay in the sanctuary to listen to the musical postlude (3-4 minutes).*