

✠ THE SERVICE ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted
Geoff Burnaford, tenor

George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↓ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We look to Esther's witness, recognizing that peace is transient, passing.

We know, too, that we are called to work within the world to bring about peace, just as Esther intervened for the life of God's people, Israel.

(light candle 1) We light first the candle of hope, trusting that hope for a savior remains.

(light candle 2) We light the second, believing that God's Son might usher in a new order, where God's love will revitalize peace among us.

↑ 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

Love Has Come

#292

↑ 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

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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

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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, you can bring blessing even from disaster. Train us to see where you are at work in the world, and where our presence can further your will in the world. 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)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

↑ GOSPEL**Matthew 5:13-16**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ PRIMARY READING**Esther 4:1-17**

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; ²he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. ³In every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴When Esther’s maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them.

⁵Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. ⁶Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, ⁷and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. ⁹Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ¹¹“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to

be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.”

¹²When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, ¹³Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

¹⁵Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ **SERMON** (8am)

CHILDREN’S PAGEANT (10:30)

Little Drummer Kid
Trinity Youth & Joyful Noise

Please join at the conclusion of the pageant when directed:

Away in a Manger vs.1

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

↓ **HYMN**

Once in Royal David’s City

#269

↑ **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 courage,

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

Child of God

Spiritual arr. Emily Crocker
Choir Anthem with Youth

↑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.

If salt has lost its taste, then what good is it, O Lord? Likewise, if we present our gifts but withhold ourselves and our love from the world, then our offering is hollow and meaningless. Season us with your spirit and make our witness stand out to those who would find inspiration from our faith. We pray these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. 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

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*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

A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Nor can the works of our God. Let us approach the table of grace that has been set before us, that we might be strengthened to continue our journey through this season, and through our lives as disciples.
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

What Child is This?
The First Noel

#296
#300

↑ **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**

May the love of God surround you; may the grace of ✝ Christ release you; and may 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**

Besançon (People, Look East)

Charles Callahan b. 1951

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