

**GREETING**

This is the day the Lord has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

**SOUNDING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Bass Family

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (Hymn # 9, verse 2)

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**\*HYMN # 13**

*"Prepare the Way"*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

based on Romans 8:39

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**People: O God, we live as if the light  
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**People: We confess that we ignore the Christ  
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**People: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

Leader: And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**People: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.  
It's time that we prepare for your coming.  
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.  
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: The good news of this Advent season  
is forgiveness of sin and new life.  
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**People: Thanks be to the Advent God,  
who comes among us,  
setting us free to love and serve.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23 (refrain)**

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** pg. 640

Isaiah 11:1-10

**ANTHEM**

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

arr.: Cary John Franklin

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

\*\*Gateway to Worship

**GOSPEL READING** pg. 2

Matthew 3:1-12

**SERMON**

Do What?!

Lynnea Hunter

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN # 295**

*"O God of Love, O God of Peace"*

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayers of the People

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.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

**\*COMMITMENT HYMN # 38**

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Take your encouragement from Christ,  
that your joy may be complete.

**People: We will share in the Spirit;  
We will find consolation in love.**

Leader: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion  
For God is at work in you, empowering you

**People: We will share in the Spirit;  
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.  
We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.  
We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

**\*SENDING RESPONSE # 29** (refrain)

*“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

**\*POSTLUDE**

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\*For those who are able, please stand.

**\*\*Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Moments.

**POINSETTIAS – DEADLINE : TODAY !!** —If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the enclosed blue order form. Cost is \$10 each.

**AFTER CHURCH LUNCH – NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>** —Please join us for December’s After Church Lunch following worship on **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will wrap the presents that have been collected for the women of The River after lunch. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert (that will go well with soup) that you would like to share with the congregation. If your dish needs to be kept warm or even heated at the last minute, someone will be in the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to receive your dish and your instructions. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Sutter or Lauri Zembower.

**THE RIVER CHRISTMAS PROJECT** —It’s time to start thinking of how to make Christmas a little better for those who have little, and share the love and compassion that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has shown us. The River is throwing a Christmas Party for 50 ladies and has asked us to supply special Christmas presents for them. Each gift would cost around \$10. You may purchase more than one gift. Our goal is 50 gifts. When purchasing these gifts, please keep in mind that this may be the only Christmas gift some of these ladies will get. Please drop off the gifts in bins located at the front of the church in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall, along with a box the gift would fit in. **We will wrap the presents next week at After Church Lunch, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to donate to The River also, they are always in need of toilet paper, paper towels, bleach, fabric softener sheets, stain remover, garbage bags, creamer, coffee, and dishwashing liquid. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Hopkins.

**THE MITTEN TREE** is in the hallway across from the church office! Please bring hats, scarves and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth.