

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,  
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come. . . . . Nikolaus Vetter  
Savior of the Nations, Come. . . . . Dietrich Buxtehude  
Come Thou Now, Down from Heaven . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People . . . . . Henry Woodward

### Introit

“Freedom Is Coming” . . . . . South African song  
*O freedom is coming, O yes, I know.*

\*Doxology (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: *Awake! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God!*

People: **Christ is coming. Open the door.**

**Sweep the path. Prepare the way!**

Leader: *Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.*

People: **Christ comes today to love us and to lead us.**

Leader: *Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.*

People: **Come quickly, Lord Jesus!**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 88 . . . . . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Advent Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is,  
forgive us for returning empty-handed.  
You who called for the light, forgive our preference for the shadows!  
You who sent John to be a voice crying,  
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.  
We yearn for clean hearts, O God, and renewed spirits within us.  
Hear us, O God, as we come to you in this time of silence,  
confessing those sins we speak only in our hearts . . .  
(Please hold silence)

Sung Response (*unison*)

“Wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27) . . . . . The Hymnal, 90  
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“O God, Show Mercy to Us” (Psalm 67) . . . . . The Hymnal, 341

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1–10 . . . . . Old Testament, page 623  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson

Mark 1:1–8, 16:5–8 . . . . . New Testament, page 32, 51  
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

## Advent Sermon Series: A Tour of Gospel Homes

“Christmas at Mark’s House” . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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### Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 79 . . . . . “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Offering

#### Offertory Anthem

“Prepare the Way, O Zion” . . . . . Robert Lau

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name. He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior’s rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.*

\*Offertory Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:  
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.  
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

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## Sealing the Word

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### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

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

#### Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

*. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 565

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, hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith!*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

#### The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthems

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” . . . . . Robert Lind

“I Offer My Heart” . . . . . Aaron David Miller

Psalm 23 (*recited in unison after all have received the cup*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul;  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

\*Prayer and Dedication of Homebound Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
As the bread and cup go out from this time of worship  
into times of worship at bedsides and in homes,  
we pray for those who will receive these elements of grace.  
May they also feel the way you tie us all together in you.  
May all of our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 163 . . . . . “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry . . . . . Aaron David Miller

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Rocky Supinger, Patrick Spence, Laura Sterkel, Alex Wirth  
Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Rocky Supinger, Isabella Monroy, Regina Monroy, Alex Wirth  
Shannon J. Kershner

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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9:30 The Tax Family

11:00 Gretchen Wahl and Fourth Church Youth

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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**TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

Communion is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. This morning the congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church elders and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

*SOURCES AND CREDITS:* The Call to Worship is from *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* by Brian Wren. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

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**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
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**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

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**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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