

*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

Carol . . . . . Gerald Finzi

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . Leo Sowerby

*Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.*

\*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.

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: *One candle to remind us of the prophets,  
the second for John the Baptist,  
the third for Mary, and the fourth for us,  
as we join with them in looking for the coming of Jesus.  
God will give you a sign;  
a young woman who is pregnant will have a son  
and will name him Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.”*

People: **Gracious God, as you came to those who have gone before us,  
you come to us now in Jesus.  
Help us to recognize you in those around us  
and to love and care for our neighbors  
as we do for ourselves. Amen.**

\*Hymn 681 . . . . . “This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made”

### Litany for Advent

Minister: *O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
pervading and permeating all creation,  
you order all things with strength and gentleness:  
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.*

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.** *(continued)*

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\*Stand as you are able.

Minister: *O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel,  
you appeared in the burning bush to Moses  
and gave him the law on Sinai:  
Come with outstretched arm to save us.*

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: *O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples,  
before you earthly rulers will keep silent,  
and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.*

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: *O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice:  
Come, shine on those who live in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.*

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: *O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver,  
desire of the nations and Savior of all:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

People: Come, Lord Jesus. *(a moment of silence)*

Minister: *God of grace, ever faithful to your promises,  
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming  
and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.  
Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,  
for he is Lord forever and ever.*

All: Amen.

### Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

### Concerns of the Church

#### Anthem

“O Thou, the Central Orb” . . . . . Charles Wood

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

#### Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 . . . . . Old Testament, page 516

\*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.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26–38. . . . . New Testament, page 53

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Judith L. Watt

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 98 . . . . . “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . Nicene Creed

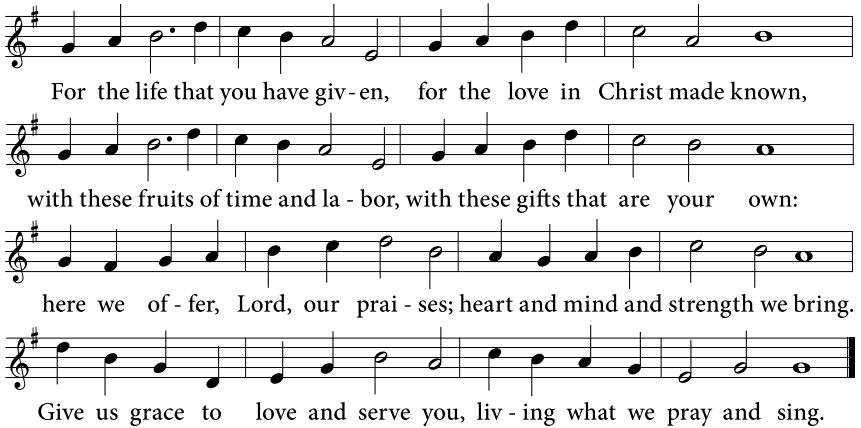
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Solo

“O Holy Night” ..... Adolphe Adam

\*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:*

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,  
 hea- ven and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho- san- na in the high- est. Bles- sed is the  
 One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

**The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 Anthem**

“The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee” . . . . . Jean Berger

**Prayer after Communion (*unison*)**

**God of grace, you chose Mary, full of grace,  
 to be the mother of our Lord and Savior.  
 Now fill us with your grace, that with her  
 we may rejoice in your salvation and in all things  
 embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn 144 . . . . . “In the Bleak Midwinter”

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**Bearing the Word into the World**

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\*Benediction and Response

**Postlude**

Finale from *Variations on a Noël* . . . . . Marcel Dupré

## Worship Leaders

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Joyce Shin, Louise Gram, Judith L. Watt

## The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir

Laura Kubelka, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Liturgy of the Advent wreath is adapted from *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent* by Ruth Burgess, copyright © 2005 Wild Goose Publications and is reproduced by permission. The Litany for Advent is from *The Book of Common Worship*. 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 by Hope Publishing Co. The music for "Holy, Holy, Holy" is by John Sherer © 1997.

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