

**ORDER OF WORSHIP - DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER**

Dr. John Hatton

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Dr. James Humlong

**Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming**  
arr. Diane Bish

**INTROIT**

Chancel Choir

**Every Valley**  
John Ness Beck

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. John Hatton

A voice cries in the wilderness:

**“Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

A challenge is uttered from on high:

**“Make straight the paths of our God.”**

Every valley will be lifted up.

**Every mountain will be made low.**

The winding path will be made straight,

**and every rough way will be made smooth.**

Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation.

**\*HYMN 196**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**\*THE 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 Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at 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 Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION

LITANY

Choir and Congregation  
Sandy and Gary Ferguson (8:45)  
The Wells Family (10:45)

In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

For the storms that sometimes rage within us

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

Advent's Holy Light  
Congregational Part

JOEL RANEY

*(on cue)*

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

*(repeat this chorus after the candle lighting and litany)*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Philpot

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Joan Wooden

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the World,  
you caused light to shine out of darkness  
in the advent of Jesus our Christ;  
you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare.  
We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways.  
We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others,  
and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace.  
We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us,  
that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity  
with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

## HYMN 230

stanza 4

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Rachel Marshall

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come**  
Paul O. Manz

Chancel Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

**\*PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Tom Herren

**John 1: 1-5 (NLT)**

In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He existed in the beginning with God.  
God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.  
The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Dr. John Hatton

**\*HYMN 246**

**Joy to the World**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Dr. James Humlong  
**Reprise on "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"**  
Paul Manz