



OPENING SENTENCES

One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - Isbell Family

Response: **Come thou long-expected Jesus.**

(tune of Hymn #83)

We are weary and need peace.

May this candle remind us now:

You bring peace that will not cease.

PRELUDE - Reprise based on "E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come"

Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to worship.

All: Welcome to worship.

One: I am glad you're here.

All: I am glad you're here.

One: Surely God is in this space.

All: Surely God is in this space.

One: I see God in your face.

All: I see God in your face.

One: Let us worship together.

All: Let us worship together.

+ **HYMN #360** - Christ Is Coming! (verses 1-3)

+ **CALL TO CONFESSION**

+ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

All: We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

One: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

All: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

One: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

All: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

+ **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS & PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

+ **RESPONSE #87**

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace, so says our God.

"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover." God will reign in peace forever.

SHARING THE FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN

*(Children are invited to go upstairs to the nursery or Agape Kidz, for music and crafts.
All children are welcome to remain in the worship service too. We really do like having them around.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION - Stacey Torgerson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 1:24-45

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - Rev. John Kupar

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being a sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

+ HYMN #98 - To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Deacon Nina McMahon

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*EACM's December Needs: Diapers, sizes 5 and 6, Feminine Hygiene products,
Pancake mix and syrup, Spaghetti Sauce, Diced or whole canned tomatoes.*

OFFERTORY - When Angels Sing

Lacey Hunter, soprano

Mark Miller

+ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**



+ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS/DEBTORS)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise... ...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, (Hymn #562)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God... .. living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

All: Christ has died; (Hymn #563)
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit... .. with Christ, in Christ, who taught us to pray:

All: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

All: Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table
and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the
many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that
we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low,
showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies
and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.

+ HYMN #539 - We Will Go Out with Joy

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Savior of the Nations Come

J. S. Bach

Thank you to these generous people for their donations this season.

Chrismons: by Sarah Nicholson in memory of Jimmy Nicholson
by Shirley Woodward in memory of Bruce Woodward
by Glenna Henkenmeier in memory of Lynn
Henkenmeier
by Kathryn Marino in celebration of Christmas

Poinsettias: by Rachel & Suraj Alexander in honor of our
beloved children & grandchildren
by the Harryman family in memory of Robert &
Starr Kaiser, & William & Frances Harryman
by Barbara Kuhn in memory of Ingrid Plume
by Donnie & Joyce Ann Walker in memory of their
parents, their daughter Melissa, & their
grandson Pierce

Our Concerns: Dee Wade, Elizabeth Vincent (daughter of Kathy Costanzo), Norma Rebik (mother of Claudia, Robertson) Juanita Wagner, Faith Aeilts, Julie Matos (niece of Tom & Marsha Biven), Jo Galloway, Ray Cashen (Larry Cashen's brother), Lionel & Ellie Hawse (friends of Larry Cashen), and Dodie McKenzie's mother.