



TOLLING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF GREETING

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Savior of the Nations Come

D. Buxtehude

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Asher Family

RESPONSE

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest, could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring, Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-6)

VENI EMMANUEL

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy inspiration for our song, your melodies sound through the world, but ours are self-centered.
We yearn for our desires louder than the desires of people whose needs are greater. The cacophony of the world
is overwhelming, so we stay with what we know, fearful to change what is wrong. We are complicit. Forgive us.
Compose in us an aria of justice that will wipe away all tears. Help us see that the world is about to turn. Amen.**

*DECLARATION OF PARDON; LAW OF GOD

*RESPONSE

The First Song of Isaiah

Jack Noble White

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in God and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And God will be my Savior. (Repeat)**

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SHARING FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN

(Children kindergarten and younger may go upstairs to the nursery. 1st through 5th grade are invited to attend Agape Kidz, music and crafts with Ms. Talbert. All children are welcome to remain with their families throughout the worship service. We really do like having them around.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

George Robertson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 24:36-44 (p. 27, NT Pew Bible)

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10 (p. 244, OT Pew Bible)

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

SERMON

Rev. Tara N. Reck

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: From A Declaration of Faith, (P.C.U.S., 1977)

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ... In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle... In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world ... But we see Jesus as Lord. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned... There will be no more tears and pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. We do not yet see the end of death. But Christ has been raised from the dead... In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Deacon Suraj Alexander

THE GIVING OF GIFTS

Minute for Mission: The Hope Village

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Zion Hears the Watchman Singing

J.S. Bach; arr. John Shannon

(As the ushers prepare to receive the tithes and offerings of this people of God, please sign the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor in the pew. We welcome everyone who is visiting with us and hope you will join us again soon.)

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING; THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN #384

Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

Bach

Our Concerns: Glen Bayne, Ray Cashen (Larry Cashen's brother), Lionel & Ellie Hawse (friends of Larry Cashen), Peg Revell, Bill Witherspoon, Marsha Biven, Nita Watkins (Valerie Holcomb's mother), Sally Brink, Dodie McKenzie's mother, Jo Galloway and Judy Pearsall

Staff:

Rev. Tara N. Reck, Pastor

Rev. John Kubar, Associate Pastor

Dr. Robert L. Bozeman, Minister of Music

Darla Talbert, Children's Music Director

Ben Jackey, Communications Director

Kathie Carman, Office Administrator