

# THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*What Child is This* Greensleeves,  
Edgar Gonsales and Lucas Metler, piano setting by Joel Raney

INTROIT

*Lord, to Thine Endless Merit* Robert Lehman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The David Jett and Sue Reeves family will light the Apostles Candle.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Romans 16:25-27

Leader: God is able to strengthen us according to the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

**People: God is able to strengthen us according to the revelation of the mystery.**

Leader: That mystery was kept secret for long ages.

**People: But, that mystery is now disclosed.**

Leader: Through the writings of the prophets, that mystery is made known to all the world.

**People: It is made known according to the love of the eternal God who calls us to faith.**

Leader: To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever.

**People: To God be glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN #12

*People, Look East!*  
verses 1, 2, 5

BESANÇON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We admit, O God, that we act as though Your Kingdom is far away. We have done many wicked things, we have neglected doing many loving things, and we are not worthy to be called Your disciples. We are sorry that we have thought, said, and done such foolishness. Now, we turn from our sins. Wipe out all our old, selfish desires, so that we may reflect Your love and truly worship You. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

KYRIE #572

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF OUR YOUNG CHURCH (*insert*)

*Canticle of the Turning*

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Children ages K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade are now invited downstairs for Children's Worship.

ANTHEM

*Messiah's Lullaby*

Schwoebel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

**Luke 1:26-38**

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks Be to God.**

SERMON

**“The Essence of God’s Favor”**

Rev. Curtis Christian

\*HYMN #59

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*  
verses 1 and 2

CHRISTMAS

\*HYMN #37

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living 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.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Gloria*

Gloria Patri

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

REGENT SQUARE

OFFERINGS FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

*A Peaceful Christmas*  
Lucas Metler, piano

Kevin Keil

\*DOXOLOGY #592

Old Hundredth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN #22

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
verses 1 and 2

REGENT SQUARE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

CRADLE SONG

POSTLUDE

*Upon This Christmas Morning*  
Lucas Metler, piano

Terry Osman

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\*Those who are able, please stand

\*\*\*Late Arrivals Seated

**Today’s Lay Reader is Philip Gump.**