

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

\*Passing the Peace of Christ

Introit

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Joy

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come once more, with eager longing,  
to receive the promises of God.

**ALL Out of the desert places of our lives,  
we gather with joy and gladness.**

ONE: Come expectantly, with all your questions.  
Bring to this place all your hopes and dreams.

**ALL: Out of our weaknesses and fears,  
we assemble to gain new strength and courage.**

ONE: Come to behold the majesty of our God.  
Draw near to God's Holy Way.

**ALL: Out of all circumstances that imprison us,  
we come to claim the joy of freedom in Christ**

\*Song of Praise "Joy to the World!" Celebration Hymnal No. 270

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

God of all generations, we are impatient for your coming to save our generation. We are ready for a word of hope in the wilderness where we live. We want to see as we have not seen before. We long to hear the message we have previously ignored. We are eager to join in the singing that announces good news to the world. Amen.

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Offertory Prayer

*We gather...*

Kevin and Diana Schilbe

*We connect...*

Congregational Prayer

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Song of Reflection "What Child Is This?" Celebration Hymnal No. 281

Pastoral Prayer

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.*

Choral Response

Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

\*Gloria Patri

*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.*

Choir Anthem

"Children's Time" Rev. Lew Worthington

Sermon "Joy to the World... and All the Other Places" Rev. Lew Worthington

*We receive...*

\*Hymn of Response "How Great Our Joy?" Celebration Hymnal No. 269

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

"Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us;  
His name is called Emmanuel.

*We respond...*

\*Postlude

\*We invite you to stand if you are able.

## **Isaiah 35:1-10**

**35**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus  
<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Church Covenant**

**We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in ourselves and others a consciousness of our relationship and duties to God and each other; to create a spirit of love for truth, a passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service; to respect and protect all of God's creation. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with God and with each other to strive to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, purity and peace, seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.**

*We love...*

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*Brian Sampson, Music Director*

*December 15, 2019*