



Jackson, Tennessee
Third Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 22, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MEDITATION: John 3:16-19

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Brian Johnson Family

SILENT PRAYER

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† SALUTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And, also, with you!

Unto us a Child is born;

Isaiah 9:6

Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called,

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 98:1-4

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has

made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

†* PSALM 98, NO. 195: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:5-8

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness,
we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,

And the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CORPORATE CONFESSION (congregation kneels as able)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

† **GLORIA PATRI** (with hands lifted)

**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.**

†* **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 207: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"**

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING: James 5:7-10

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise be to you, O Christ!

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 226: "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

READING OF GOD'S WORD: Isaiah 9:2-7

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Isaiah's Christmas Story, Part III:
The Glory Child

† CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**catholic=universal*

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (with hands lifted)

**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**

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

† SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

+ SANCTUS

Sung in unison

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav'n and earth are full__of your Glo - ry. Ho

9

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he__ who_ comes__

17

in__ the name of the Lord our God. Ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the High - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Song, No., 193: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" v. 1-2

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song, No., 193: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" v. 3-4

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 214: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

† **BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

† Congregation stands, if able | * Seating for latecomers at this time

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We light the Angels' Candle.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth,
 To touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
 From heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay,
 To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
 With peaceful wings unfurled,
 And still their heavenly music floats
 O'er all the weary world;
 Above its sad and lowly plains,
 They bend on hovering wing,
 And ever o'er its Babel sounds
 The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
 Whose forms are bending low,
 Who toil along the climbing way
 With painful steps and slow,
 Look now! for glad and golden hours
 come swiftly on the wing.
 O rest beside the weary road,
 And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
 By prophet bards foretold,
 When with the ever-circling years
 Comes round the age of gold
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendors fling,
 And the whole world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

