

## Advent Candle Lighting

Leader

### Call to Worship

From Romans 15

**Minister:** *Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promise to be fulfilled. Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and He will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on Him."*

### Invocation

Minister

### ✠Hymn of Worship

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; / Let earth receive her King; / Let every heart prepare Him room, / And heaven and nature sing, / And heaven and nature sing, / And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: / Let men their songs employ; / While fields and floods, / Rocks, hills, and plains / Repeat the sounding joy, / Repeat the sounding joy, / Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, / Nor thorns infest the ground; / He comes to make His blessings flow / Far as the curse is found, / Far as the curse is found, / Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, / And makes the nations prove / The glories of His righteousness, / And wonders of His love, / And wonders of His love, / And wonders, and wonders of His love.

### ✠Prayer of Promise

The Book of Prayer, Matthew Henry

O Lord, You are holy. The worshipful praises of Your people confess Your holy and righteous rule. Holy and awesome is Your name. You are holy in all Your works, and holiness adorns the place where You dwell. We give thanks whenever we remember Your holiness. (Ps. 22:3; 111:9; 145:17; 93:5)

**Leader:** *All glory be to God for His grace and mercy.*

**People:** Amen.

### Hymn of Praise

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, / When Thou camest to earth for me; / But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room / For Thy holy nativity. / *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, / There is room in my heart for Thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, / Proclaiming Thy royal degree; / But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, / And in great humility. / *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, / There is room in my heart for Thee.*

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest / In the shade of the forest tree; / But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God, / In the deserts of Galilee. / *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, / There is room in my heart for Thee.*

✠Those who are able, please stand.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word / That should set Thy people free; / But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn, / They bore Thee to Calvary. / *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, / There is room in my heart for Thee.*

When the heav'ns shall ring / And the angels sing / At Thy coming to victory, / Let Thy voice call me home, saying, / "Yet there is room, / There is room at my side for Thee." / *My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, / When Thou comest and callest for me!*

### Confession of Faith

Q.120 The Geneva Catechism, John Calvin

**Leader:** *You mean this then: That this righteousness offered by the work of Christ is so to be received by Faith as it is offered unto us, of God, in the Gospel?*

**People:** It is so.

### Pastoral Prayer

Minister

### ✠Hymn of Preparation

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, / And ransom captive Israel, / That mourns in lonely exile here, / Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to Thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, / Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, / In ancient times didst give the law / In cloud, and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free / Thine own from Satan's tyranny; / From depths of hell Thy people save, / And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high / And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; / Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, / And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come / And open wide our heav'nly home; / Make safe the way that leads on high, / And close the path to misery.

### ✠Sermon Scripture Reading

Minister

**Minister:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### The Sermon

*Measuring Up, Part II*

Dr. Renton Rathbun

Ephesians 4:11-13

### ✠Hymn of Response

*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.

### ✠Hymn of Benediction

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice; / Give ye heed to what we say: / Jesus Christ is born today; / Earth and heaven before Him

bow, / And He is in the manger now. / *Christ is born today!*

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice; / Now ye hear  
of endless bliss: / Jesus Christ was born for this! / He hath opened heaven's  
door, / And man is blessed evermore. / *Christ was born for this!*

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice; / Now ye  
need not fear the grave: / Jesus Christ was born to save! / Calls you one and  
calls you all / To gain His everlasting hall. / *Christ was born to save!*

✠**Benediction**



## Advent

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers  
and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger  
and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the  
Lord Jesus Christ.*

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