

November 30, 2014
Ten o'clock
First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are walking toward a silent night,

Drawn by the chords of love.

We are moving to the sound of an angelic chorus,

Lured by a deep and holy melody.

We are growing in the likeness of Christ,

Supported by the nudges of the Spirit.

We are living in awareness of a divine love that fills the universe,

Pulling us to love and serve, to pray and worship.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the first Candle of Advent are members of the Stephen Ministry.

*RESPONSE NO. 137

"He Came Down"

**He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.**

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Lighting the candles today is Acolyte Alyssa White.

CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Loving and merciful God, as we await the coming of Jesus, we confess that we do so with divided loyalties and scattered attention. We want to welcome a baby but not follow the road he beckons us to follow. We like the idea of having something and someone to believe in but do not want those beliefs to demand a change in our behaviors. We are inspired by brilliant stars, angelic song and the magi's gifts, but are not interested in the risky business of sharing the good news. Our lives are cluttered with parties, packages and pageantry, and in the midst of it all, we have misplaced the truth of the Incarnation--that you have come to be with us, to know us and be known by us, to dwell not just with us but within us, for the sake of all creation and the world. Forgive us, precious Son of God, we pray, and restore to us the joy of being yours.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

In whose name we pray.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING NO. 607 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us, the gates of your kingdom.**

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of welcome and peace with your neighbor.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

†If you are new to the church... **Welcome!** We're glad to have you here. Please ask an usher to direct you to *Visitor packets* at the rear of the church. They can be found on the table near the usher's closet under the balcony stairs. After the 10:00am service today, we hope you will join us for Coffee Hour in Room 120 located through the door to the left of the choir loft and left to the end of the hall.

†The flowers this morning, are given to the glory of God in honor of...
... the Marriage of Ed Haversang and Diane Van Leer.

† The white rose this morning celebrates the life of Robert Neff and remembers the promises of the resurrection in his death on November 23, 2014. Our sympathy and prayers to his wife, Gerrie Neff, and his family.

†Your prayers of intercession are requested for those members and friends known to be *currently or recently hospitalized or who continue to need our prayers and support:*

... Harry Coppens, Bill Hayden, Ruth Hults, Edith Jipp, Roger Jones, Olga Muller, Marilyn O'Connell, Barbara Piggery, Louise Ritscher, Laura Winter and Helena Wispelwey. The church office will be happy to verify their home addresses for you should you wish to send them words of encouragement or get well wishes.



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