



ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 11, 2022
10:30 a.m. Service

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn of Praise – “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (UMH #213)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
Eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Keep watch, for the wilderness and dry land shall be glad;

People: The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

Pastor: Say to those with a weary heart

People: Be strong, do not fear! For the Lord is coming to save.

Pastor: Do not fret or fear any longer;

Act of Praise – “Glory be to the Father” (UMH #70)

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.

Affirmation of Faith – “The Apostles’ Creed” (UMH #881)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead and buried;

The third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God

the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge

the quick 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.

Scripture Lesson – Matthew 11:2-11

Advent Wreath Liturgy

A prophet gives testimony, proclaiming good news is upon those with feeble knees and fearful hearts, as God will come and save. For the Lord will be in our midst, opening the eyes of the blind and unstopping the ears of the deaf, as the tongues of the speechless suddenly sing with joy.

Waters will spring up in the wilderness and streams will burst forth in the desert. God's people will reflect the glory of their Lord, as repentance ushers in God's mercy and grace and the Lord's abundant blessings are revealed.

We light our third candle in joyful anticipation of God's good news being manifest in our lives, as restoration and praise spring up for a weary world to see.

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “O Come, O Come

Emmanuel, v. 6 (UMH #211)”

O come, Thou Dayspring,
come and cheer

Our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer (Unison) Living God, who promises to bring renewal and restoration, free us from sin, bind our wounds, and fill us with your Spirit such that all people may see and desire the joy of Christ's kingdom. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, who desires to bring healing and justice to the weak, we rejoice as you speak words of renewal into our lives. We are humbled by your grace, yet still struggle to bear fruits worthy of repentance. We accumulate more than we need while failing to meet the needs of others. We are not satisfied with what you provide, and we find it difficult to prioritize time with you over worldly pursuits. Forgive us, Lord. Restore and strengthen us, such that righteousness and joy spring up like streams in the barren places in our lives in our lives as your reign comes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Extending the Peace of Christ

Adult Choir – “Will There Be Room?”

Offering

Doxology – “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” (UMH #94)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn – “In the Bleak Midwinter” (UMH #221)

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away

when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and arch-angels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him;
give him my heart.

Sermon – “Longing for Joy”
Text: Isaiah 35:1-10

Hymn - “There’s A Song in the Air” (UMH #249)
There's a star in the sky!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy
over the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while
the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie
the ages impearled;
And that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is a-flame,
and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
That comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

Benediction

Congregational Response – *Emmanuel* (UMH #204)

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel
his name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
his name is called Emmanuel*

Postlude

Dismissal

*Brian Barber, Organist
Roy Nelson, Director of Music Ministries*

Rev. Brad Leight Ruth Portzline, CLM