

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: Philippians 4.4-5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.  
People: I will say it again: Rejoice!  
Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
People: The Lord is near!  
Leader: Let’s rejoice in the hope of Christ’s coming!  
People: Let’s worship God!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Trinity Hymnal #194

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: Psalm 131.1-3

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things to great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel: Psalm 130.7-8

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving: Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
Trinity Hymnal #218

Advent Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord’s hand  
double for all her sins.  
A voice cries:  
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”  
A voice says, “Cry!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”  
Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

Hymn of Meditation: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Trinity Hymnal #216

Prayer of Intercession:

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.

\* Children dismissed for Little Church

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 1.5-25

Sermon: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith: The Belgic Confession, Article XVIII

We confess, therefore, that God did fulfill the promise which he made to the fathers by the mouth of his holy prophets when he sent into the world, at the time appointed by him, his own only-begotten and eternal Son, who took upon him the form of a servant, and became like unto men, really assuming the true human nature, with all its infirmities, sin excepted, being conceived in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without the means of man; and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that he might be a real man. For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that he should take both upon him, to save both.

Hymn of Response: Go Tell It on the Mountain  
Trinity Hymnal #224

Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.