



### Names of Christ—Messiah

Messiah means “Anointed One”. Someone who is anointed is “chosen for a high honor of a special job”.<sup>1</sup> The people of God had been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years- waiting for the One who would come for the “special job” of delivering them. Of course there would be great joy when he came! Isaiah prophesied of that day when he described it as refreshment in a dry desert: “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy” (Isaiah 35:1-2). Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the One promised by God to be the deliverer of his people, Israel. Today we celebrate with joy! [1: Sally Michael, God’s Names, P&R Publishing, © 2011, p 98]

## GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather in preparation

**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation

**for joy is about to explode in our midst.**

We gather in celebration

**for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

SONG: *All Creation Sing*

Candle Lighting

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness.

The prophet Isaiah said, “The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called... Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah continues: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

And the apostle John says, “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

As we wait expectantly for Christ’s promised return, we live in the assurance of God’s gracious forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

*Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

## COMMIT

*Morning Prayers*

*Offerings: 1) Pleasant Street Ministries; 2) Faith Promise*

*Moment for Missions: Sergei Sosedkin - Back to God Hour*

## WORD

*Children’s Musical: Census Time in Bethlehem*

*Scripture: John 4:19-26 + “Not Just Another Baby Boy”*

## SEND

*Benediction*

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who came with grace and truth, also fill your hearts with grace and truth, as you serve him in the days ahead. And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— be your strength.

**Amen.**

SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Dismissal

Let us go forth with joy to serve the world as those who love  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**