



*Collect (Prayer of Preparation)*

*God of timeless grace, you fill us with hopeful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

## **GATHER**

*Welcome & Announcements*

*Choral anthem: Come, Emmanuel*

*Call to Worship—based on Isaiah 40:3*

A voice cries:

**“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”**

As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God’s dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

**Let us worship God.**

SONG: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Call to Confession*

Truly, the Lamb of God comes with pardon, giving hope to all creation. In hope and confidence, then, as children of God, we come before God during this Advent season with the honest longings of our hearts, and of all creation. In that hope, let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession*

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a

child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. **Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior’s coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

*Words of Encouragement*

As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of Emmanuel, we long for the day when death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. As we wait expectantly for Christ’s promised return, we live in the assurance of God’s gracious forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Candle lighting—based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28*

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness and our never-ending hope.

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.” The angel Gabriel said to the virgin Mary, “Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

We rejoice that we too have found favor with God. God’s mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

We light this candle as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *God Made Low*

*Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

*Children’s Message*

*KIDSTREET Dismissal — Children Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*

## **WORD**

*Morning Prayers*

Isaiah 7:14 (p558); Zechariah 14:9 (p777); Revelation 21:1-6, 22-24, 27; 22:16-17 (p 1004-1005) + ‘Magnify Jesus, Our Immanuel’

## **COMMIT**

*ECHO Dismissal — Children 3<sup>rd</sup> — 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Offerings: Pleasant Street Ministries*

SONG: *Sing to the King*

## **SEND**

*Benediction—Romans 15:12-13*

Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

SONG: *Soon and Very Soon*

*Dismissal*

Let us go forth in the hope of Emmanuel, God with us, to love and serve the world.

**Thanks be to God!**