



*The Names of Christ—Lamb of God*  
For hundreds and hundreds of years, God's people made animal sacrifices to pay for their sins. Thousands and thousands of perfect animals were killed and their blood was the payment for sin.<sup>1</sup> John the Baptist testified about Jesus when he said, "Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus is the Lamb of God, the one who was finally able to truly and effectively take away, by his blood, the sins of the world. Now goats and lambs and calves no longer need to be sacrificed for us because Jesus was<sup>2</sup>. Oh, what love!

[<sup>1</sup>: Sally Michael, *God's Names*, P&R Publishing, © 2011, p 92], [<sup>2</sup>: Schuurman & Vogel, *Reformed Worship*, #61]

## GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship—based on Psalm 85:7-13*

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

**He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

**Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship.

**May we see God's face and know his love. Amen.**

SONGS: *You are Holy / Jesus, Lamb of God / O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

*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."

"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."

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."

And again John testifies, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

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

SONG: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*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*

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money,  
**yet you come in weakness.**

All season long we covet great material gifts,  
**when you alone offer what is lasting.**

Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth,

**forgive us, heal us, correct us.**

Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels,

**and remake our lives that we may witness to your transforming love.**

Through Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

*Words of Encouragement—John 1:12*

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

This is the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

*Stump the Pastor (Children's Message)*

*KidStreet Dismissal*

## WORD

*Morning Prayers*

Exodus 12:1-13 (p 53), Numbers 3:11-13 (p 106) + 'The Debt of Forgiveness-A Lamb'

## COMMIT

*ECHO Dismissal*

*Offerings: Pleasant Street Ministries*

SONG: *Behold the Lamb of God*

## SEND

*Benediction—1 Thessalonians 3:12-13*

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Amen.**

SONG: *Love Has Come*

Dismissal

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

**Thanks be to God!**