



## Order of Worship

*Striving to be what Christ tells us through Scripture.*

December 8, 2024

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* arr. Larry Shackley  
Amy Duran, piano

WELCOME

### ***Our Approach to God***

RESPONSIVE READING

from Psalm 82

Leader: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment

**People: How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?**

Leader: Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**People: Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.**

Leader: They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**People: I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince." Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!**

\*HYMN

*"O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"*

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ellen & Paul Nelson

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

**People: WE ARE WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO GROW, WAITING FOR GOD TO RESTORE AND FORGIVE US.**

Leader: In the faintest glimmers of dawning light, we wait for God's bright glory.

**People: WE ARE WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO GROW, WAITING FOR GOD TO RESTORE AND FORGIVE US.**

Leader: As the light grows in our lives, we remember how God has cared for us, and we remember the words of the psalmist:

**ALL: I AM LISTENING. WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE? THE LORD'S MESSAGE IS PEACE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE. SAVING HELP IS NEAR FOR THOSE WHO FEAR GOD.**

*Light one purple candle.*

Leader: The candle we light today recalls the light of God's promised salvation given in Jesus Christ who said, "I am the Light of the world."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Waldis  
CHANCEL CHOIR "Advent Hymn" Joseph Martin  
PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ***The Word of God***

\*HYMN "Hark, What a Sound" screens  
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 2:1-5 p. 245 (OT)  
Luke 1:46-56 p. 57 (NT)  
Les Cox, liturgist  
SERMON "Mary's Song" Pastor Waldis  
PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

### ***Our Response to God***

OFFERTORY  
\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER #815  
JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION  
THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" screens  
BENEDICTION  
CHORAL AMEN  
POSTLUDE "People Look East" arr. Lloyd Larson

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**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Anonymous; Lynn Baker; DeAnna and Roger Carman; Ernie Hepperle; Wini Kinkele; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Charles Moorman; Ed Serrano; Craig Terjanian; Barry Wood.

## THIS WEEK

Monday	7:45	Bell Choir
Tuesday	6:30	Deborah Circle Holiday Dinner at Dages Home
	7:30	Finance and Facilities Meeting
	7:30	Outreach
Wednesday	7:30	Ramsey Wind Symphony in FH
Thursday	7:30	Chancel Choir
	7:30	Christian Education Meeting
Saturday	8:30	Men's Group

### Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 Chancel Choir
- 10:00 – Worship, Sunday School & Puppets
- 11:15 – Alleluia (Children's) Choir
- 12:00 – 2:00 – Holiday Crafts & Cookies

### LOOKING AHEAD

- Sunday, December 22—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
10 AM Christmas Musicale
- Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
Christmas Candlelight Services at 7 and 11 PM
- Sunday, December 29** 10 AM—Worship

**UNITY PRAYER:** Lord, we ask that the Holy Spirit would help us to keep Christ in Christmas and to keep Christ in our hearts.

**THE FLOWERS** are given by Ellen and Paul Nelson In honor of their newest granddaughter, Anna Jean McCall, born 11/24/24 to parents Sarah and Jeremy.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above. James 1:17*

**USHERS AND GREETERS** are needed for December 15, 22, and 24 at 11 PM. Please sign up in the narthex.

**IT's THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!** If you'd like to contribute to our Christmas poinsettia display, please use the envelopes that are in the pews or on the table in the Narthex. Make your checks payable to the Guild for Christian Service. Thank you.

**LUMINARY HELP** is needed for Christmas Eve. Set-up will be at 9:30 AM; lighting of the luminaries will be at 6:00 PM, and clean-up, of course, will be at midnight. Please sign up in the narthex or speak to Chris Novak or Chris Doyle if you can help with any or all of these.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE'S GIVING TREE PROJECT. TODAY IS THE LAST DAY** to drop off your Giving Tree gifts. You can still leave a monetary gift in the envelopes that are provided by the tree. These gifts will be given to New Hope located in Westwood N.J. New Hope is changing lives one mother, one baby at a time. Brochures outlining New Hope's mission are available near the tree. You can also go to their website at [www.newhopepc.org](http://www.newhopepc.org).

**A BIBLE STUDY WILL START IN JANUARY--**We will be going through the book of Galatians, one of Paul's earlier letters. Pastor Waldis will be leading it, and everyone is invited to attend. It will be held on Sundays after worship at approximately 11:30. The location will depend on how many people sign up. Please indicate your interest in on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**UNFORTUNATELY, THE RAMSEY WIND SYMPHONY** had to cancel its scheduled concert that was planned for December 15 in our sanctuary. They will be performing a free concert at Tenafly High School on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 2:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

## Luke 1: 46-56 Mary's Song

### Exegesis (Background)

1. Mary is a humble \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is the god of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Mary's song is about the \_\_\_\_\_  
and Christmas.

### Life Application

We must \_\_\_\_\_ in God's work with the poor.

God \_\_\_\_\_ the lowly and poor.

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