Prelude Ann Boudreaux

Call to Worship

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** Today there is good news for us to behold!
**Many: Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God’s sight.
One:** For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.
**Many: God’s mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.
One: Believe in the power of God in all things. AMEN.**

Hymn #110 *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* (v. 3)

Advent Candle Lighting

**One:** Advent is a time to prepare.

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

**One:** During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

**One:** During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

**One:** During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

**One:** During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

*Candle Lighting*

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord. We wait for the unfolding of God’s plan in accordance with God’s time. The second candle reminds us that Advent is also a time to watch. During Advent, we eagerly watch for God’s presence and work in our world. As we light the third candle we also remember that Advent is a time to prepare. During Advent, we prepare ourselves in heart, soul and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

*We Sing the Refrain*

Unison Prayer

**God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Hymn #107 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (v. 3)

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 61:1-3

Hymn #114 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (v. 3)

Lesson from the New Testament 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Lesson from the Gospels Luke 1:39-56

Sermon *“**We Wait in Joy For Greater Joy*”Pastor Lisa

Hymn #103 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (vs. 3)

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem*“Breath of Heaven”*

I have traveled many moonless nights Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone. Must I walk this path alone? Be with me now (x2)

Chorus: Breath of heaven Hold me together
Be forever near me Breath of heaven Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness Pour over me your holiness For you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am. For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong Help me be Help me

Prayer of Dedication (From David S. Bell)

**Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thankfully rejoice and praise you for your peace and light shared with all nations. Now, center us on the King of Glory during these prayerful moments of giving. We present these gifts as your humble and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.**

Benediction

Hymn #108 (Pilgrim)  *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying*

Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
"awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voice,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care yourselves prepare
to meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious;
her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all the marriage hall
to eat the Supper at your call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore you,
let saints and angels sing before you
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
we gather round your radiant throne.
No vision ever brought,
no ear has ever caught such great glory;
therefore will we in victory
sing hymns of praise eternally.