



\*congregation standing

PRE SERVICE MUSIC *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Lynne Booker, piano  
Rowland H. Pritchard; Carol Tornquist, arr.

WELCOME Drew Herring

CHILDREN'S HANDBELL PROCESSION

ADVENT INTROIT *Tell Out My Soul* Sanctuary Choir  
(Text & Tune Celebrating Grace 94) Henry W. Greatorex

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

**A voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."**

\*ADVENT HYMN 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* The Church

THE MEANING OF ADVENT Patrick Wales and Cynthia Wright

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Advent is believing in God's good.

**Advent is embracing hope in fear.**

Advent is making peace in chaos.

**Advent is finding joy within sorrow.**

Advent is love made visible.

**Light in darkness.**

Life abundant.

**Advent is waiting patiently...**

With hope and with peace.

**With joy and with love.**

ADVENT RESPONSE 79 (verse two) *O Come, O Come, Emanuel* The Church

**O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;**

**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

THE GREENS Patrick Wales and Cynthia Wright

Carol 90, verse one

*People Look East*

The Church

**People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

THE POINSETTIAS Patrick Wales and Cynthia Wright  
Carol 90, verse two The Church

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

THE POINSETTIA TREE Patrick Wales and Cynthia Wright

\*Carol (Words by Bruce Wilson; Sung, standing, to the tune: *Away In A Manger*) The Church

**We worship together in this sacred place, Your people forgiven, reborn by your grace.  
We thank you, kind Father, for family, for friends. For hope in the darkness, for life without end.  
For parents who raised us, for children to love; For earth's gentle bounty and rain from above;  
For health, joy and beauty, on which we now thrive; For all of your saints who have guided our lives.  
All praise to the Father, the Spirit and Son, All glory to God, who is three and yet one.  
Was born in a manger, but Lord of all time, O, Beautiful Savior, Your glory still shines.**

THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES Patrick Wales and Cynthia Wright

Lighting of the Peace Candle and the Window Candles Craig & Joy Wood

Carol 90, verse three & four The Church

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.**

**People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

CENTERING PRAYERS Skyler Daniel

SERMON "Let It Begin With Me" Luke 2: 1-7 Drew Herring

\*HYMN 140 *Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us* The Church

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Kelly Owen

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Advent Supplication: Creator of the Stars of Night* Sanctuary Choir  
9th Century Plainsong; Hal H. Hopson, arr.

\*ADVENT RESPONSE 119 (verse one; tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*) The Church

**His name is called Emmanuel, more wonderful than words can tell. God is with us! Alleluia!**

**Born in our darkness, He is Light; Born in our weakness, He is Might.**

**God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION Jonathan Bishop

POSTLUDE *Postlude on HYFRYDOL* Mark Gourley  
(Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus) Healey Willan

**PLEDGE UPDATE:** We will collect pledges through Dec. 31st. We have collected 37.2%, our goal is 90%!

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