

DECEMBER 28 2025 ORDER OF WORSHIP

I. PRELUDE: Robin Wohlfeil

Robin's Choice

II. WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER: Ed Marek

A. Welcome

B. Announcements

C. Opening Prayer

Let us pray: Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

III. CALL TO WORSHIP: Doug Lurvey

One: Please rise in body or in spirit and join in the call I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love.

All: I will praise God for all that he has done—

One: his great goodness to his people,

All: and his many acts of faithful love.

One: For he is our Father,

All: our Redeemer from ages past.

One: Now, let us worship God, singing hymn #133- O Come, All Ye Faithful

IV. OPENING SONG: Robin

#133- O Come, All Ye Faithful

V. CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: Doug

A. Call to Confession

Please be seated. Friends, when we think about the story of Christmas, we would like to be among those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the Christ child. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability, that he might know love and safety. And yet we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. With confidence in God's mercy, let us pray together:

B. Prayer of Confession

One: Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety.

All: Lord, have mercy

One: Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear change.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. And hear us now as we silently pray before you. Amen.

PAUSE 30-60 SECONDS FOR SILENT CONFESSION

C. Assurance of Pardon

One: God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

VI. PASSING OF THE PEACE: Doug

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

All: And also with you

One: Now, let us share a sign of God's peace with one another

VII. SONG OF PRAISE: Robin

#137- He Came Down

VIII. FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Doug

A. Prayer for Illumination

Please be seated. Now, as we prepare to hear God's Word spoken to us, let us pray together: Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

B. Scripture Reading

Our first scripture reading comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 63 and verses 7 through 9. Hear God's Word for you:

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,

the deeds for which he is to be praised,

according to all the Lord has done for us—

yes, the many good things

he has done for Israel,

according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

He said, "Surely they are my people,

children who will be true to me";

and so he became their Savior.

In all their distress he too was distressed,

and the angel of his presence saved them.

In his love and mercy, he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them

all the days of old.

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

IX. SPECIAL MUSIC: Robin

Robin's Choice

X. SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Ed

Matthew 2:13-23

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,

weeping and great mourning,

Rachel weeping for her children

and refusing to be comforted,

because they are no more.”

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

XI. MESSAGE: Ed

XII. SONG OF RESPONSE: Robin

#153- In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy

XIII. GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

A. Call to Bring Our Gifts: Ed

Please be seated. Now, let us continue to respond to God’s Word by bringing our tithes and our offerings.

B. Song of Thanks: Robin

Doxology

C. Prayer of Thanks: Doug

Please join me in prayer over our offerings: Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God.

XIV. PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER: Ed

Almighty God, in Jesus, you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in his name. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for the world. You made all things in your wisdom, and in your love, you save us. We pray for the whole creation. Overthrow evil powers, right what is wrong, feed and satisfy those who thirst for justice, so that all your children may freely enjoy the earth you have made, and joyfully sing your praises.

We pray for the church. You have called us to be the church of Jesus Christ. Keep us one in faith and service, breaking bread together, and proclaiming the good news to the world, that all may believe you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth.

We pray for peace. You sent us a Savior, Christ Jesus, to break down the walls of hostility that divide us. Send peace on earth, and put down greed, pride, and anger, which turn nation against nation and race against race. Speed the day when wars will end and the whole world accepts your rule.

We pray for enemies. O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, resent, or threaten; and live together in your peace.

We pray for those who govern us. Direct those who make, administer, and judge our laws; the President of the United States and others in authority among us; that, guided by your wisdom, they may lead us in the way of righteousness.

We pray for world leaders. Hope of all the earth, give vision to those who govern all countries; that, with goodwill and justice, they may take down barriers, and draw together one new world in peace.

We pray for the sick. Silent prayer. Merciful God, you bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick; cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace.

We pray for those who sorrow. God of comfort, stand with those who sorrow; that they may be sure that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from your love

We pray for friends and families God of compassion, bless us and those we love, our friends and families; that, drawing close to you, we may be drawn closer to each other. And we pray especially for those we name silently before you now...

PAUSE 30-60 SECONDS FOR SILENT PRAYER

God of all generations, we praise you for all your servants who, having been faithful to you on earth, now live with you in heaven. Keep us in fellowship with them, until we meet with all

your children in the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to pray using these words:

Our father...

XV. SENDING SONG: Robin

#136- Go Tell It on the Mountain

XVI. CHARGE & BLESSING: Ed

Now Jesus, may God bless you and keep you, may the very face of God shine upon you, and be gracious to you, may God's presence embrace you and give you eternal peace. Amen.

XVII. POSTLUDE: Robin

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