

DECEMBER 7 2025 ORDER OF WORSHIP

I. PRELUDE: Robin Wohlfeil

Robin's Choice

II. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Nikki Blanks

A. Welcome

B. Announcements

III. CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: Carol & Larry Snyder

One: Please rise in body or in spirit and join in the call to worship as it appears in your bulletin: Now, the Lord who made you has this to say: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name and you are mine."

**All: We hear the one who calls us by name, but we are still so often afraid.**

One: May the Spirit of God move in this place, the spirit of faith, not fear; the spirit of looking ahead and not backwards.

**All: Lord, remind us again that you walk with us, whether we pass through the waters or walk through the fire.**

One: We will not fix our eyes on the former things but point our gaze toward the new miracles that God is working for us!

**All: We will look ahead and not be afraid.**

*Two Purple candles are lit*

One: As we light the candle of peace, we remember that peace for the world begins with peace in our own hearts. We wait for the Prince of Peace who will teach us to make peace begin with each of us. Let us pray:

**All: God, in you, we find true and everlasting peace. While we wait for peace to reign on earth, teach us to hold the light of peace in our own hearts, to love our neighbors and to follow the way of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

IV. OPENING SONG: Robin

**92- While We Are Waiting, Come**

V. CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: Carol Snyder

A. Call to Confession

Please be seated. In a few days' time we will be celebrating the birth of Christ, so let us restore our souls, and refresh our spirits. Please join me in the prayer of confession as it appears in your bulletin:

B. Prayer of Confession

One: Though we are complicit in the frenzy of consumerism, the unreality of expectations, the tension of gift giving, and the pressure to attend gatherings:

**All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved.**

One: Though we would like to be more Christ-centered in our daily lives, we know we can turn to God, and be restored. So, we ask:

**All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. And hear us now as we silently pray before you. Amen.**

*PAUSE 30-60 SECONDS FOR SILENT CONFESSION*

C. Assurance of Pardon

One: Be assured that God's love is sufficient. In the warmth of the sun, the fertility of the soil, and the refreshment of life-giving water, we have been given all that we need. God hears our cries, and comes to save us. Through Christ we may lay aside our sins; through Christ, we know we are safe. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven**

VI. PASSING OF THE PEACE: Carol

One: The peace of our 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

**95- Prepare the Way of the Lord**

VIII. FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Carol

A. Prayer for Illumination

Please be seated. Now, as we prepare to hear God's Word, let us pray together: Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

B. Scripture Reading

Our first scripture reading is Psalm 80. Hear God's Word for you:

*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!*

*You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!*

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?*

*You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.*

*You make us the scorn<sup>[a]</sup> of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.*

*Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.*

*You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.*

*The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;*

*it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.*

*Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?*

*The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.*

*Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;*

*have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.*

*They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.*

*But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.*

*Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.*

*Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

IX. SPECIAL MUSIC: Vocal Choir

“Come to the Table”

X. SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Nikki

Matthew 1:18-25

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

XI. MESSAGE: Nikki

XII. SONG OF RESPONSE: Robin

**82- Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

### XIII. GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

A. Call to Bring Our Gifts: Nikki

B. Song of Thanks: Robin

#### **Doxology**

C. Prayer of Thanks: Carol

Please join me in prayer over our offerings: Dear Lord, we give back to you in thankfulness what you have given to us in kindness. We acknowledge that the world and its resources are not ours but yours, and that you have put us in charge as your trustees. Help us to exercise responsibly the authority you give us in your world. Let Jesus your Son be the pattern for all our dealings with one another, and with the rest of creation. Bless the gifts we now present back to you, so that they may be used in the work of your Kingdom on this earth.

### XIV. SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: Nikki

A. Invitation to the Table

B. Great Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You set us in this world to love and serve you, and to live in peace with all that you have made. When we turned from you, you did not turn from us. When we were captives in slavery, you delivered us to freedom, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. When we were stubborn and stiff-necked, you spoke to us through prophets who looked for that day when justice shall triumph and peace shall reign over all the earth. Therefore we praise you. AND WE THANK YOU ESPECIALLY FOR THE BLESSINGS WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering. We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the

body of Christ in the world. *Intercessions for the world may be included here.* AND WE PRAY  
ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift  
blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us  
faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory. We pray in the name of Jesus, the one  
who taught us to pray using these words:

**Our Father...**

C. Words of Institution

D. Communion of the People

E. Prayer After Communion

XV. SENDING SONG: Robin

**106- Prepare the Way, O Zion**

XVI. CHARGE & BLESSING: Nikki

XVII. POSTLUDE: Robin

Robin's Choice