

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look! The young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and call him Emmanuel,

God is with us.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN # 14

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Savior of the Nations, Come

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not yet expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;

Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a (p. 865, Old Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:46b-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm, and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,

to remember the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears,

to Abraham and his children forever.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-55 (p. 57, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

*HYMN # 4

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy

Traditional Trinidad carol

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

SENDING

*HYMN (see insert)

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23, 2018
Presbyterian Church in Needham