

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 8:30

December 22, 2019

Prelude music - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" - arr. Burkhardt

Welcome, comments on today's worship, announcements

Silent meditation

Opening Hymn

No. 260 "The King Shall Come"

Invocation & Confession of Sins Page 94

The Greeting and Kyrie Page 98

The Prayer of the Day Celebrate insert

Lighting of Advent Candles and "Emmanuel" (inside page)

The First Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80 - "Lord, Make Us Turn to You" - Haugen (back page)

The Second Lesson - Romans 1:1-7

The Gospel

Alleluia verse Page 102

Matthew 1:18-25

The Sermon - The Third Door

The Hymn of the Day

No. 613 "Thy Holy Wings"

The Prayers of Intercession Celebrate insert

Teaching Moment

The Children's Sermon

Offering and Offertory

"Ave Maria"- Bach/Gounod

The Great Thanksgiving page 107

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (traditional) page 112

The Lamb of God page 112

The Communion

Hymns sung during distribution: No. 512 & 793

The Blessing

The Closing Prayers, Benediction & Three-fold Amen

The Closing Hymn

No. 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Dismissal: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude - "People, Look East"

We believe that because of God's love, Christ is really present in, with, and under the bread and wine--wanting to touch your life. We invite you to come forward and receive communion (or a blessing).

Psalm Stanzas

1. Shepherd of Israel, hearken from Your throne and shine forth,
Oh rouse Your power, and come to save us. *Refrain*

2. We are Your chosen vine, only by Your care do we live,
reach out Your hand, Oh Lord, unto Your people. *Refrain*

3. If You will dwell with us, we shall live anew in Your love,
Oh shine upon us, great Lord of life. *Refrain*

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 11:00

December 22, 2019

Prelude music - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" - arr.
Burkhardt

Welcome, comments on today's worship, announcements

Silent meditation

Opening Hymn

No. 260 "The King Shall Come"

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The Sermon - The Third Door

The Hymn of the Day

No. 613 "Thy Holy Wings"

The Creed page 105

Teaching Moment

The Children's Sermon

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The Lord's Prayer (traditional) page 112

The Benediction & Three-fold Amen

The Closing Hymn

No. 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Dismissal: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude - "People, Look East"

A LONGEST NIGHT/SHORTEST DAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Significantly adapted from a service first written by Jim Taylor

December 21, 2019

Prelude music - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" arr. Burkhardt
Welcome, comments on tonight's worship, announcements
Silent meditation
Opening hymn: #260 "The King Shall Come"

The Introduction

Leader: The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the loss of loved ones, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. Our spirits can sink as the days grow shorter. Some feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us in hope. We need to know that we are not alone.

Call to worship:

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen his glory.

Leader: In him was life, and that life was the light of all.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it.

Leader: God, some of us come to you in this Christmas season with pain inside us. As the nights have been growing longer, so the darkness has wrapped itself around our hearts.

People: In this season of our longest nights, we offer to you the pain in our hearts that some of us cannot put into words.

Leader: Our pain can make us feel like outsiders and we push ourselves away.

People: At times others push us away.

Leader: God, some of us are grieving over what might have been. Someone has died. Someone has left us. Someone has moved away. We have lost a job. We have lost a dream, a goal, a cause. We find ourselves adrift, alone, lost in a terrifying new world. This season reminds us of all that used to be, and cannot be any more. We know we will go back to the ordinary world where people may not understand, but we give you thanks that you have called us here tonight. Help us to let our inner selves be open to your compassion and healing power.

People: This is our longest night, Lord. Please be near us. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pause for individual reflection:

Assurance of acceptance by God:

Leader: Just as people felt alone and rejected by their own people 2000 years ago, God himself came among them and touched and healed them. Because of God's never ending love, we too will see light restored and hope renewed.

People: Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candles and "Emmanuel" (insert)

Part 2: Hearing the Word of God for our time, our place.

Special Music by the Adult Choir - "Bring Us Hope" - Jonah DeMik (cello)

Carol Hedlin (drums)

The First Psalm 80 - "Lord, Make Us Turn to You" (insert) - Haugen

The Second Lesson - Romans 1:1-7

The Gospel - Matthew 1:18-25

The Sermon - The Third Door

Hymn of the Day: #613 "Thy Holy Wings"

Part 3: Healing through God's presence

Scripture reading & prayer (Psalm 22:1-5)

Leader: Dear God, you suffered when your child died. In your compassion, ease our suffering.

People: Amen

Scripture reading & prayer (Matthew 11:28-29)

Leader: Spirit of God, shine like candles in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel abandoned, forsaken, and forgotten.

People: Amen

Scripture reading & prayer (Revelation 21:1-7)

Leader: Friend Jesus, we don't ask you to shoulder our burdens for us--just help us carry a corner of them, and we can carry on.

People: Amen

Scripture reading & prayer (Romans 8:37-39)

Leader: Lord God, your vision seems a long way in the future. Bring your promise closer to us, we pray.

People: Amen

Leader: We also pray for all those who have asked for our prayers this week, including....

May your presence bring healing and wholeness, we pray.

People: Amen

Teaching Moment & Children's Sermon

Offering and Offertory

"Ave Maria" - Bach/Gounod

Communion

"Heaven Everywhere" - Adult Choir - Carol Hedlin (drums)

Hymns sung during distribution: No. 512 & 793

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction: The life our Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and suffered and died for the sake of all suffering and hurting humans, yesterday, today, and tomorrow; the peace of God, which passes all understanding; and the presence of God's Holy Spirit supporting and encouraging you, be with you through this season of the longest night.

People: Amen

Closing Hymn: #244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Dismissal: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude - "People, Look East" - Aber