



OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee, arr. P. Manz

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE – Doug & Juanita Halls, Andrea & Hunter Witt

Leader: As we gather today and light this candle of love, we are reminded that God is our steadfast love. The Psalmist declares:
People: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Leader: We praise you, O God, for you give what is good. Jesus is our sign of this goodness and the fulfillment of what the Lord told the prophet:
People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, God with us.
Leader: For you, O God, we wait with hope, peace, joy, and love.

HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout, Star of the County Down

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. [Refrain]

Text: Rory Cooney, 1990. Music: Irish Melody; arr. Rory Cooner, 1990. Text and Music arr. ©1990 GIA Publications Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (*silent confession continues...*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God's Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins. You are God's beloved. Grace to you and peace.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Amy Poland

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

After all sing the response once, the cantor will sing the verses of the Psalm. The congregation will then sing the response where indicated with "(R)".

Refrain

For - ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the

Lord, the good - ness of the Lord.

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. (R)

I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: 'I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.' (R)

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: 'I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him.' (R)

My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong. No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. (R)

My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name. I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers. He will say to me, 'You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.' (R)

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

SERMON

In A Vision

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Joys and Concerns
- Pastoral Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN 105

People, Look East, Besancon

1. 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.

4. 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.

2. 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.

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

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Pastorale, from Christmas Concerto, A. Corelli



Leaders Today

Pastor.....	Scott Anderson
Liturgist.....	Richard Appen
Minister of Music	Joe Chrisman
AV/Tech.....	John Tarr