



### Worship Participants

Pastor: Pastor Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee ♦ Readers: Kurt & Kayt Frisch  
Worship Leader: Sanneke Kok ♦ Candlelighter: Annika Goslinga  
Sound: Andy Landman ♦ Projection: Goslingas ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming.

† Cover designed by Christina Chahyadi

## Preparation and Praise

Prelude: "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" M. Burkhardt

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple;  
the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.

Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!

**Our king is coming; the righteous Savior,  
who shall speak peace to the nations.**

\*Song: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LUYH 478:1-4

\*Prayer of Invocation

\*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song: "Prepare the Way" LUYH 58

## Renewal

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV) p.1490

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reflection

How then do we prepare to be transformed by the coming of the Lord. . .

. . . by allowing the light of hope to awaken our spirits?

. . . by making room for the Lord to write the covenant on our hearts?

. . . by living in gratitude for what we receive in the Lord?

The Consecration

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Dying, he destroyed our death;**

**rising, he restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Prayer of Consecration (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" LUYH 821

"What Feast of Love"

LUYH 96

The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

**Praise the Lord, my soul; and forget not all his benefits—**

**who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,**

**who redeems your life from the pit**

**and crowns you with love and compassion.**

We Offer our Gifts

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who have financial needs.

Offertory Song: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

LUYH 59

## Sending

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

LUYH 478:5

Postlude: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

G. Boehm

## The Table

We invite all who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come to the table to be fed and nourished. We also believe that this is a family meal. If your children have shown an interest in taking communion, please contact your elder who would be happy to talk through that with them. This morning we will come forward to receive the elements. If you are in need of gluten-free bread, please indicate that to the servers.

### Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

**And of our own, we have given you.**

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring the fruit of the vine; **you give your blood.**

We bring offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.

\*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

### Trinitarian Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God who is love.**

We are God's people, made one in Christ. **We are redeemed.**

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

...Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to sing:

Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" LUYH 538:1

### The Institution

## Moment of Silent Prayer and Meditation

Song: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LUYH 56:1,2

### The Candle Lighting

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Renew in us your covenant, O God,

that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness,

and to guide us in the way of peace.

With gratitude for your light, O God,

we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

## The Word

Children's Blessing: "My Soul in Stillness Waits" (*chorus only*) LUYH 63

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Luke 3:1-9

p.1593

Sermon: "Waters in the Wilderness; Streams in the Desert" Pastor Joel Kok

## Response

\*Song of Response: "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" LUYH 60:1-3

### Offertory Prayer and Offering of our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools to help keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.

Offertory: "The Huron Carol"

D. Bédard