

# THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

**The Lord's Day, December 17, 2017**  
*The Christian Year: The Third Sunday in Advent*

**10:30 AM Morning Service**

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5*

[Please turn off cell phones and observe silence when the prelude begins.]

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

## The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

## \*Call to Worship Isaiah 40

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news!

**People:** Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him;

Minister: He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in his arms;

**People:** He will carry them in His bosom and gently lead those that are with young.

**Unison:** Praise be to the Lord! Come! Let us adore Him!

## \*Hymn of Adoration No. 218

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
(verse 5 a cappella)*

## \*Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Prayer

O Savior, King of kings and Lord of lords: We worship you and praise you. For though you are God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, you took the form of a servant and were born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, you humbled yourself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted you and given you a name above every name. So that at your name, Jesus, every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## \*Affirmation of Faith

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM: Q&A 35 AND 36

Minister: What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?

**People:** The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus He is also the true seed of David, and like His brothers in every respect, yet without sin.

Minister: What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

**People:** He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.

## Gloria Tune: Gloria (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

## \*Hymn of Response No. 193

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

## Prayers of the People-A Litany for Christmas

**Unison:** O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence, behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; and, as we have known Him to be the light of the world, so may we enjoy Him perfectly in the new heaven and earth; where, with you and the Holy Spirit, He lives and reigns in glory everlasting. Amen.

Minister: For the incarnation of the Eternal Son of God, we give you thanks.

**People:** For His life of perfect obedience that secured our righteousness, we thank you.

Minister: For the one, full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice of Himself for the sins of His people, we give you thanks.

**People:** For His resurrection, ascension, reign and promised return, we thank you.

**Unison:** For the gospel of grace that assures us that we are forgiven by His blood, accepted because of His righteousness and made children by adoption, we give you thanks.

## Pastoral Prayer

## Words of Encouragement

Minister: Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon Him;  
He will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up His voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed He will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick He will not quench;  
He will faithfully bring forth justice.

**Unison:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,  
bless His holy name!

## \*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 198

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

## Worship of God Through Tithes and Offerings

## \*Doxology Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;  
O Praise Him! O Praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

## \*Reading of The Holy Scriptures Matthew 6:5-13

## \*The Prayer for Illumination

## Sermon Dr. Mark Futato

**"AS IN HEAVEN, SO ON EARTH: THE REASON FOR ADVENT"  
(PART 2)**

## \*Hymn of Response No. 195

*Joy to the World*

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

*\*Denotes congregation standing, if able.*

**Cookies & Catechism, immediately following this service.  
Lessons & Carols this evening at 6:00 p.m.**