

Order of Worship for December 12

Pre-service songs: **What Love Has Done** (Sarah Hart)

Be Still My Soul (Psalm 131) (McCracken)

Welcome

Call to Worship:

As we step into this Advent

we pause, we prepare, we will listen

to timeless stories rooted and connected not somewhere far away

but right here and right now that will shape our Christmas season

In this Advent journey,

we seek to enter the stories,

God's living breathing Word

and become a part of it.

The family tree of Jesus includes

men and women

voiceless and powerful

victim and perpetrator

ALL who were imperfect people – just like us.

Through imperfect people,

God works to fulfill the promise to be our God

To redeem our world

and claim us as God's people

Ultimately gifting this world and God's people

with a Messiah, a Redeemer, a newborn in a manger.

Help us Lord to be open to

listening,

looking,

talking,

and experiencing you this Advent Season.

Let Us Worship Immanuel together.

Song: **Sing We The Song of Emmanuel**

God's Greeting

We Greet Each Other

Song: **Creation Calls** Birthday song for Orval Abma

Candle Lighting

Ruth, a woman, was with child and bore a son. Ruth, once a childless widow, became a foremother of Jesus. Ruth was a resourceful woman.

She created opportunities for herself to make choices about her future.

We look forward to the day when we who wait for the Lord

shall be renewed in strength. We shall run and not be weary.

We shall walk and not faint.

Hear then, O house of David!
The Lord will give you a sign.
A young woman shall bear a son,
And shall call his name Immanuel,
which means "God is with us."

Song: ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Confession:

A Prayer of Confession and Commitment based on Isaiah 35

God of broken people and broken places--
we confess to you our love of comfort,
of the known and predictable,
of the safe and secure.
We recognise that you call us into in-between spaces,
to leave what we know, as Ruth and Naomi did,
and venture with you into desert and wilderness,
into blindness and discomfort.
We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know.
Help us to trust you, and to set out.
On the journey of faith,
Far I have come, far I must go

God of broken people and broken places--
we thank you for all that Grace has been to us and to many others.
We thank you for the space to listen, to grow,
to create, to be challenged.
We recognise that you are calling us on
to leave what we know and venture with you into new things,
as Ruth and Naomi did,
into engagement and participation, into creativity and risk,
into new structures and opportunities.
We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know
and we're not sure where we're going.
Help us to trust you, and to set out.
On the journey of faith,
Far we have come, far we must go.

God of rebuilt people and rebuilt places--
You have plans for deserts and wilderness
"Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool,
The thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness."
God of transformation, we look forward to what you will do
with our lives and with Grace
On the journey of faith,
Far we have come, far we must go.
AMEN.

Song: ***All Things New***

Assurance of Pardon:

At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between,
the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us.

God comes!

**Not to punish, but to gift us with peace,
not to judge, but to save us.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song: ***How Great Thou Art*** Birthday Song for Jake VanderLeek

Prayers of the People

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of Scripture: Selections from Ruth 1-4

Sermon: Lineage of Grace - Ruth

Song: ***What Love Has Done***

God's Parting Blessing

Song: ***Hope for Everyone***

Offerings at the door on the way out:

1. Building Fund
2. CACHS