

Order of Worship December 18, 2022

Welcome

Call To Worship: (inspired by Ruth 1 and Mark 12)

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.

We are here

to worship a remarkable God.

**The love of God welcomes us,
the grace of Christ awaits us,
the joy of the Spirit enfolds us.**

The Spirit invites us—

Don't come as slaves, come as the truly free.

Don't come as petitioners, come as those who are already heard.

Don't come as interlopers, come as invited guests.

Don't come as the outsiders, come as much-wanted children.

**The love of God emboldens us.
The grace of Christ redeems us.
The joy of the Spirit uplifts us**

Come as the joyful, come as the eager, come as the thankful,
come as the recipients of amazing grace.

**The love of God overflows our hearts,
The grace of Christ liberates our spirits,
The joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.**

Song: Hallelujah - choir

God's Greeting

We Greet Each Other

Song: Light of the World - choir

Advent Reading

Song: My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Prayer of Confession (based on Isaiah 64: 1-9)

Holy God of Advent,

you come near to us,

yet we continue to seal our hearts

with indifference to a suffering world.

**Tear open our hearts,
and make us more compassionate.**

You approach us with bundles of mercy
to kindle our hope, but we continue to build
our lives with the bricks of bitterness.

**Tear open our anger, so we might become
more forgiving.**

You draw near, longing to embrace us,

but we fold our arms, closing ourselves off
from those all around us.

**Tear open our souls, so we might become
children of Advent.**

God, shaper-of-our-lives:

have mercy;

Jesus, Word-which-does-not-pass-away:

fill us with your grace;

Holy Spirit, Giver-of-the-Light-of-peace:

Shine through our lives.

Song: Dona Nobis Pacem - choir

Assurance of Pardon

Even now, God approaches us:

mercy transcending anger,

hope overcoming despair,

life triumphing over death.

This is good news, my friends; this is news of great joy for each of us.

**Enriched in every grace,
blessed with joy and hope,
transformed by love,
we will live as people of Advent.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song: Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming - bday song Irene Reitsma

Baptism

Song: God Claims You

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness - Steenberg choice

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Sermon

Song: Take My Life and Let it Be

Congregational Prayer

Offering *Song: Noel*

God's Parting Blessing

Song: Go My Children With My Blessing - bday song George Weenink