

**Order of service**  
**December 13, 2020**

**Welcome**  
**Announcements, concerns & celebrations**

**Carol sing**

***Have yourself a merry little Christmas***  
(Key of G)

1

Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
Let your heart be light  
From now on  
Our troubles will be out of sight

2

Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
Make the yuletide gay  
From now on  
Our troubles will be miles away

3

Here we are as in olden days  
Happy golden days of yore  
Faithful friends who are dear to us  
Gather near to us, once more

4

Through the years  
We all will be together  
If the fates allow  
So, hang a shining star  
Upon the highest bough  
And Have yourself  
A merry little Christmas now

## **God rest ye merry gentleman**

(Key of Em)

1

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy

2

In Bethlehem, in Judah  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy

3

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love & brotherhood  
each other now embrace.  
The holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth efface.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy

## **No crowded Eastern street**

(VU 49; Key of D)

1

No crowded eastern street, no sound of passing feet;  
far to the left and far to right  
the prairie snows spread fair and white;  
yet still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.

2

No rock-hewn place of peace shared with the gentle beasts,  
but sturdy farmhouse, stout and warm,  
with stable, shed, and great red barn;  
and still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.

3

No blaze of heavenly fire, no bright celestial choir,  
only the starlight as of old,  
crossed by the planes' flash, red and gold;  
yet still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.

4

No kings with gold and grain, no stately camel train:  
yet in his presence all may stand  
with loving heart and willing hand;  
for still to us is born tonight  
the child, the King of glory.

## **Advent wreath**

### **“Hope is a star”**

(VU 7)

1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

2

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth

3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn  
Telling the world that the Saviour is born

### **Lighting the candles**

Sung response

Go! Tell it on the mountains  
Over the Hills and everywhere!  
Go! Tell it on the mountains  
That Jesus Christ is born!

### **Invitation to the offering**

### **Dedication of the offering**

### **Hymn: On Jordan's Bank**

(VU 20; Key of G)

1

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lamb is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of Kings.

2

Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3

In you, we find abundant life,  
our refuge in the midst of strife;  
without your grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and help us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

5

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won;  
and praise to God whom we adore,  
with Holy Spirit evermore.

### **Prayer and confession**

### **Assurance of pardon**

### **The Lord's Prayer Song**

### **A time for all God's children**

### **Children's carol: Good King Wenceslas (Key of G)**

1

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

2

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

3

"Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."  
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

4

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,  
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."

5

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,  
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

**Scripture: John 1: 6-8; 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord', as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Gospel hymn: Luke 1: 47-55 *The Magnificat***

(VU 899; tune: It came upon a midnight clear [VU 44; Key of G])

1

My soul gives glory to my God,  
my heart pours out its praise;  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvelous ways.  
My God has done great things for me:  
yes, holy is God's name;  
whose people will declare me blessed,  
and blessings they shall claim.

2

From age to age, to all who fear,  
such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near,  
dismissing selfish hearts.  
Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
promotes the insecure,

leaves hungry spirits satisfied,  
the rich seem suddenly poor.

3

Praise God, whose loving covenant  
supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises  
with present faithfulness.  
My soul gives glory to my God,  
my heart pours out its praise;  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvelous ways.

## **Sermon**

## **Pastoral prayer**

## **Benediction**

### **Closing hymn: Watchman tell us of the night** (Tune: Hark! The Herald [VU 48; Key of G])

1

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are;  
Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height  
see that glory beaming star  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
aught of hope or joy foretell?  
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.  
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

2

Watchman, tell us of the night;  
higher yet the star ascends;  
Trav'ler, blessedness & light,  
peace and truth its course portends  
Watchman will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth  
Trav'ler ages are its own, see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav'ler ages are its own, see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn;  
Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight;  
doubt and terror are withdrawn  
Watchman, let thy wand'ring cease,  
hie thee to thy quiet home!  
Trav'ler, Lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come.  
Trav'ler, Lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come.