

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over. (Johannes Oearius)*

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: *Based on Philippians 4:4-5*

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.
People: I will say it again: Rejoice!
Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.
People: The Lord is near!
Leader: Let's rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming!
People: Let's worship God!

Greeting: *Based on Ruth 2:4*

Leader: The LORD be with you!
People: And also with you!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Trinity Hymnal #194*

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: *Ephesians 2:1-3*

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel: *Ephesians 2:4-7*

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God Consecrates Us by Praise, Pledge, and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Trinity Hymnal #200*

Profession of Faith: *Ford Montgomery*

Hymn of Meditation: *O Little Town of Bethlehem
Trinity Hymnal #201*

Advent Reading of Hope: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymn of Meditation: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Trinity Hymnal #216*

Prayer of Intercession: *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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: *Genesis 5:28-32*

Sermon: *Jesus Came as the Better Noah*

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of Response: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Trinity Hymnal #211*

Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.