

December 14, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Joy in my Heart

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

People: Mary said, "How can this be?"

Leader: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

People: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

Leader: So may we trust the Inviter.

People: May we heed God's invitation.

Leader: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

People: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

*OPENING PRAYER

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

*HYMN #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward, and with baby steps we hope, and we pray, amen.

Leader: Let us continue our confession together in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this

Advent season: Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM Light of the World

SECOND READING

Luke 1:26-39

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON How Can This Be?

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN #134 Joy to the World

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code

OFFERING

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND SENDING

POSTLUDE Light of the World

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POINSETTIAS MEMORIALS

Each Christmas season we offer the congregation the opportunity to adopt one of the poinsettia plants in honor or memory of a loved one. There is a sign-up clipboard in the narthex. The cost is \$19 per plant. Your honorees and memoriams will be listed in an insert in the Christmas Eve bulletins, and will be shown on the sanctuary video screens.

Children's Christmas Pageant 4 pm Christmas Eve
All ages welcome. For more info contact Emma Kate Lander
elander@erpc.org

Advent and Christmas Eve Schedule
Sunday December 14 third Sunday in Advent
Thursday December 18, 6:30 pm Blue Christmas Service
Sunday December 21 fourth Sunday in Advent
