



# How does a weary world rejoice?

*We acknowledge our weariness*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:*

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.**

**Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.**

**Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,

no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

God's love keeps showing up for us.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, you are loved, you are claimed, and you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

ELW pg. 98

## OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray -

**Eternal God, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son into our hearts and into our world.**

**Prepare our hearts for the brightness of your glory and for the fullness of your truth, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

STORYTELLING AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.*

PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:1-23

*In response to the readings:*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN

WEARY WORLD REJOICE

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Weary World Rejoice'. The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the last two lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Wea - ry world, God's own vine  
Wea - ry world, bro - ken and bruised  
Wea - ry world, out of hope  
Wea - ry world, wait - ing still

Tears our on - ly bread and wine  
Name of God is so mis-used  
Dis - be - lief is how we cope  
Hold - ing our breath un - til



Cry - ing out to be re-stored  
 Can we see the light of Christ  
 We've left faith to rot and rust  
 Christ re - turns in truth and grace



Des - perate for a break from war  
 Glow - ing in each per - son we spite?  
 Dreams are cov - ered in lay - ers of dust  
 Will we re - cog - nize his face?



Wea - ry world re - joice



Come and raise your voice

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

**And also with you!**

*Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others.*

---

## MEAL

---

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 107

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 108

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*At Pastor Aleese's direction, the congregation responds "Come, Lord Jesus" and "Come Holy Spirit" in the midst of the prayer.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.*

*Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.*

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg. 112

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

---

## SENDING

---

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

ELW 242

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Copyright acknowledgements:

Music covered under Augsburg Fortress License #SB135131, CCLI License #1141706, One License #738128-A. Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Prelude: Ave Maria. Text and Music: Johann Sebastian Bach. Text and Music: Public Domain.

Gathering Song: Now the Heavens Start to Whisper Text and Music: Mary Louise Bringle. Text and Music: © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Covered under One License subscription.

Hymn of the Day: Weary World Rejoice (Silent Night). Text: Anna Strickland. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber. Text: A Sanctified Art LLC. Music: Public Domain.

Offering Song: Unexpected and Mysterious. Text and Music: Jeannette M Lindholm. Text and Music: © 2011 Hope Publishing Company. Covered under One License subscription.

Communion Song: Weary Traveler. Text and Music: Andrew Jacob Pruis, Jordan St. Cyr, Matthew West. Text and Music: © 2021 BEC Worship (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) This Little Fire (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Combustion Five (Admin. by Me Gusta Music LLC) Combustion Four Point Five (Admin. by Me Gusta Music LLC) Third Story House Music (Admin. by Me Gusta Music LLC) Remaining portion is unaffiliated. Covered under CCLI subscription.

Sending Song: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn. Text and Music: Marty Haugen. Text and Music: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Covered under One License subscription.