



# How does a weary world rejoice?

*We allow ourselves to be amazed*

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## GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

ELW 250

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Holy God,  
**somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in the name of + Jesus Christ, you are loved, you are claimed, you are forgiven, and you belong to God.

**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

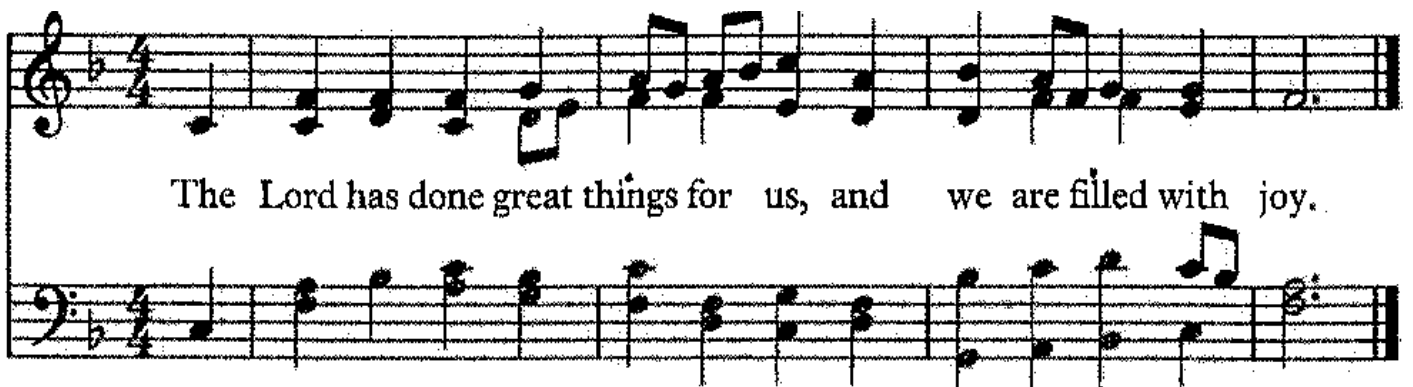
### STORYTELLING AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

### 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.*

### READING: PSALM 126

*At the direction of the reader and song leader, the congregation sings the following refrain at the beginning, middle, and end of the psalm:*



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

### GOSPEL: LUKE 1:57-66

*In response to the readings:*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

### HYMN

LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

ELW 726

### 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.*

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## MEAL

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### 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

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## SENDING

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BLESSING

SENDING SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW 267

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

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Prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Adapted Rev. A. Kenitzer