



# How does a weary world rejoice?

*We sing stories of hope*

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## GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

ELW 257

(vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)

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.**

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.**

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## WORD

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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: LUKE 1:46-55

REFLECTION

HYMN

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

READING: 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

REFLECTION

HYMN

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

ELW 251

READING: LUKE 1:67-80

REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

O HOLY NIGHT

CATE BROWN & JOSEPH REDDY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that hope can change the world.**

**We believe that God uses ordinary people like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.**

**And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.**

**We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.**

**We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.**

**But we choose hope anyway,.**

**In the face of hardship, we hope together.**

**We hope with God.**

**We hope for a better world.**

**This is our song.**

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

**In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

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.*

————— **THANKSGIVING** —————

OFFERING

OFFERING 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.**

————— **SENDING** —————

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME

ELW 263

(vs. 1, 3-5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming.

**Thanks be to God!**

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