

ORDER OF SERVICE
5 December 2021
Advent 2

GATHER			
Call to Worship			Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	Loves Divine All Loves Excelling	TIS 217	
Candle Lighting			Rev Allan Smith
Children's Story			Selena /Emily
Praise Time (10min)	O Come O Come Emmanuel	TIS 265	
	The wonder of your mercy (Covenant of Grace)	SCE[2] 1004/ CCLI# 2319980	
Welcome & Visitors candles, Celebrations, Green Cards			Rev Allan Smith
Prayer: Adoration, Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness			Rev Allan Smith
Passing the Peace			Rev Allan Smith
Song	Forever	CCLI# 3148428	
HEAR THE WORD			
Bible Readings	Malachi 3: 1-4;	Philippians 1: 3-11;	Luke 3: 1-18
Message	<i>Give Up</i>		Pam Elliott
Song (Optional)	King of Kings	CCLI# 7127647	Rev Allan Smith
RESPOND			
Affirmation of Faith	A creed for Advent		
Offering Dedication			Rev Allan Smith
Notices & Concerns of the Church			Ros Bambrick
Prayers of the People			Ros Bambrick
Communion Song	Remembrance (The Communion Song)	CCLI # 5484616	
Communion	Rev Allan Smith & Elders		
Song (after Communion)	Indescribable	CCLI# 4403076	
BLESS			
Mission/Benediction			Rev Allan Smith
Benediction/Going Out Song	Indescribable	CCLI# 4403076	

Preaching	Rev Allan Smith
Worship Introduction	Rev Allan Smith
Notices of the Church & Prayers of the People	Ros Bambrick
Bible Reader	Pam Elliott
Song Selector	Ros Bambrick
Piano	Selena Anderson
Backup Singers	
Additional Music	Tony Leong
Sound System	Geoff Rohde
Data Operator	Ian Anderson
Power Point Producer	Ian Anderson
Offering Collectors	NA
Communion Bread	NA

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Make God’s paths straight.

Every valley will be filled,

and every mountain will be levelled.

The crooked will be made straight.

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All will see the salvation of God.

See the light from on high.

The dawn is breaking.

The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

Let us worship God

SONG [Loves Divine All Loves Excelling](#)

CANDLE LIGHTING

~~PRAYER OF INVOCATION~~

SONGS [O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)

[The wonder of your mercy \(Covenant of Grace\)](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Eternal Lord God, patient beyond human understanding,

that all might be reconciled to you rather than perish;

all thanks and praise to you,

our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer.

In your promise we journey, seeking the reconciliation which you offer now
and the restoration assured in your dwelling place of justice.

We praise you for your comfort in the wilderness

and your sustaining presence in our adversity;

Your Holy Spirit dwells among us lest we fall asleep;

and keeps us alert, waiting for that moment of your revelation.

You open our hearts to your reconciling peace,

and empower us to walk in a right relationship

with you, O Lord;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

to whom be all honour and glory

and praise and thanksgiving.

(Scattered Seeds JBCE 1994. © Jeff Shrowder)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Malachi 3; Luke 1, 3*)

O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb,
until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn.
We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for your coming.
Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches.
How can we stand before you, Lord?
The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted,
crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin.
Where can we turn?
Who will guide us back to the way of peace—
the way that leads to you?

God of light and life, break open your light, so that we would see others around us.
Break open your light, so we might experience the joy and wonder of the season.
Break open your light, so that we might walk on the path of peace, justice, and
mercy, that you have laid before us.

In the name of Christ, who is breaking into our lives in a new way, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In God's deepest mercy,
we were called to a baptism of repentance,
so that our sins might be forgiven
and we might be pure and blameless
before the coming Christ.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ
be at peace—your sins are forgiven;

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SONG [Forever](#)

BIBLE READINGS

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)

[Philippians 1:3-11](#)

[Luke 3:1-18](#)

SERMON [Give up](#)

SONG [King of Kings](#)

OFFERING

By your tender mercy O God, the dawn from on high breaks upon us, to give light
to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the
way of peace. Receive our giving and our living the way of Jesus, and let all our
service give you glory and praise, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of hosts, you have sent messengers to help us prepare for your coming again. Encourage pastors, teachers and volunteers to be strong in your service. Keep them mindful of their calling and keep them from straying from your paths. Purify them so that they will be examples of your righteousness. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Mal 3:1-4)

Lord God of Israel, ruler of the world, you have redeemed all creation through the life, death and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ. You kept your promises to our ancestors in faith, Abraham and Sarah. Grant that we, being rescued from eternal death through Jesus' sacrifice might serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Luke 1:68-79)

Gracious Lord, teach us compassion for all your children. Remove fear and prejudice and teach us to love. In those places where your children are at war, give peace. Wherever your children are afraid, give courage. Send us into the world as your workers, witnessing to our faith through our generosity. Help us to share from our abundance so that others may have the necessities of life. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Phil 1:3-11)

Ruler of the world, we are broken people. In ancient times and modern times we rely on you for our very lives. Heal us from our infirmities.

This morning, we pray especially for...

To whoever is broken, Lord, give healing. Raise up those who live in valleys of depression and guide us all into the way of your salvation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Luke 3:1-6)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG [Remembrance \(The Communion Song\)](#)

SONG [Indescribable](#)

WORD OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Go now and prepare the way for the Lord.
Share in the gospel of God's grace;
Proclaim salvation and the forgiveness of sins;
Make straight paths for justice and mercy.

And may the grace...

HOLY COMMUNION: Advent 2 Year C

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for from your deepest mercy comes our hope of salvation.

In the beginning you began creating the world
and you will bring it to completion at your final appearing.
Through your prophets you promised to save us
from all that would drive us into slavery.

You sent your servant, John,
to prepare the way for your anointed one
by proclaiming a baptism of repentance,
a refining fire to purify your people.
In your child, Jesus, we have seen the dawn of justice,
and the glory of your mercy and righteousness.

When he was crucified
you raised him to new life with the power to save.
Now we eagerly await the glorious day of his appearing,
when all your children will be gathered home,
overflowing with love, joy and the fruits of righteousness
to your glory and praise.

And so we praise you...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WORD OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Luke 1:68-79 - A Cantic

We bless you LORD God:

you have smiled on your people and saved them;
you raised up a saviour from the house of David your servant,
just as you promised through the prophets long ago,
saving us from our enemies and those who would do us in.

You have shown the mercy you promised to our ancestors in
the faith

remembering your holy covenant, sworn to Abraham;
to free us from our enemies to serve you,
upright and without fear, all our days.

A child is born to be called the prophet of the Most High;
who is going before you to prepare your ways;

**to teach of the salvation to your people by the forgiveness
of their sins.**

By your tender mercy, O God,

your dawn from on high has broken in upon our lives,
lighting up the darkness, and the shadow of death, in which we
sit,

and guiding our feet into your way of peace.