

The Order for the Worship of God

Let the first tone of the organ be a call to quiet meditation in which all may become aware of God's presence, and lift up a prayer for yourself and for Faith Church.

Prelude

Mary Heller

Welcome and Greeting

Preparation of Our Hearts

Candle Lighting

Varys Family

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.

A wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light,"

and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

Congregation: And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

— Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV)

† Opening Hymns

(Christmas Songbook)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #1

All Praise to Thee #22b

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Psalter Reading

Psalm 122

John Young

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’

² **Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.

⁴ **To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there the thrones for judgement were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
‘**May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.’

⁸ **For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’**

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God for His Word

Choral Anthem

The Voice in the Wilderness

By David Paxton

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!

The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills made low;

Make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our GOd may go!

O Zion that brings us good tidings, get you up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flow'rs of the field they perish, like grass our works decay, The pow'r and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;

But the word of our God shall fail not, the arm of the Lord is strong; He stands in the midst of nations, and He will right the wrong. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. the lambs He'll gently hold; To pastures of peace He'll lead them, and bring them safe to His fold, And bring them safe to His fold.

Children's Sermon

† Second Hymn

#328 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
vv 1, 4, 6-7 (Gray Psalter Hymnal)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Sermon

Pastor Andrew Winter

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings

† Response # 638 The Doxology

(Gray Psalter Hymnal)

† Prayer of Dedication

Moment for Mission

Jubilee Christmas

Joys and Concerns

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

† Closing Hymn Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending #612
(Gray Psalter Hymnal)

† Announcements

† Benediction

Postlude

Mary Heller

† Those who are able, please stand