

## The Light

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it... the true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world... And the Word became flesh and lived among us.”  
(John 1:1-5, 9, 14a)

### LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Prepare the way of the Lord.

**We light this candle in Hope,**

The hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.

**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**

### \*CAROL

#231 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

FESTAL SONG

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)  
MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)

FESTAL SONG  
S.M.

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N.C.

A   D   A   D   A   B̄   B/   E

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

A   E   D   A   Bm   D#m7(b5) E   A   D   A   Esus   E7   A  
G#   F#   E   D

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
up the bro - ken-heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

## Dedication of Our Symbols and Ourselves

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with righteousness from this time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will do this.”  
(Isaiah 9:6-7)

We have prepared our sanctuary and our homes for the arrival of the Christ child. We prepare ourselves also for his coming as Lord of our lives, and for his promised return as the one who makes all things new. In a moment of silent prayer let us quiet our hearts in anticipation of this Advent season.

*(Silence)*

**Prayer (unison)**

**Lord Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we have prepared our sanctuary and our homes for your coming. We dedicate these symbols of our faith to you. As individuals and as a people we prepare ourselves for your coming, so that you would again be Lord of our lives. As your light shines in our darkness, may the light of the Good News of Christ's coming shine in the dark corners of our world. We pray in the name of the one whose coming we await. Amen.**

**\*CAROL FOR THE JOURNEY**

#163 All Earth is Hopeful

TAULÉ

Unison  
D D F# G G/B A7

1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!  
2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:

D F#m G Em7 A A7

Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the  
"A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-

Bm F#m G C#dim E D F#m A

la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-

Bm F#m 1-3 Em7 G Em7 A7 4 Em7 G F#m A D

God's truth and jus-tice set ev-ery-bod-y free.  
stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth. (4) ev-er sets us free.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## **\*THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**\*Choral Benediction - "Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come"**

## **\*Sending of the Community**

And now may God - the Creator of light and life, trees and flowers, snow and rain -- friendship and celebration -- grant us peace. May this decorated place of worship proclaim the birth of our Lord and may our lives "put on display" the life of Christ and proclaim his coming to those around us. In the name of Jesus, the "arriving one." Amen.

**\*Congregational Amen**

## **POSTLUDE**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. J. Weber

## **\*Please stand as you are able**

We are grateful for those who serve with us today!

Organist/Accompanist: Jerrold Eilander

Guest Conductor: Dr. Gord Adnams

Readers: Rev. Jeremy Keay, Sue Monroe, Lucas Bellous, Elaine Junk

Video and Sound Tech: Evan Adnams

Decorating Sanctuary: Carolynne Ross, Sheila & Harvey Hiller, Ken Bellous

Photographer: Gordon Dinwoodie

## Chrismons-Christ Monograms



**CHI RHO-(Ky Ro)** Chi Rho is the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. Look at how the letter X forms the shape of a manger to remind us of Christ's birth.



**LAMB**-The Lamb is the symbol of Jesus Christ. (John 1:29) "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." It also reminds us that Christ is the Good Shepherd.



**SHEPHERD'S CROOK**-The Shepherd's Crook or Staff reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His people and we are invited to do the same. Shepherds were also the first people who were told about the birth of Jesus!



**STAR**-The eight pointed Armenian Star is also called the Bethlehem Star, showing us the way to Jesus, just as it did for the Magi.



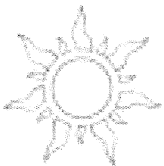
**CROSS AND CROWN**-The cross is the symbol of salvation, the crown tells us that Christ is Lord. The faithful are promised the crown of life!



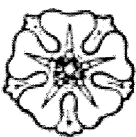
**CROSS ON THE ORB**-The Triumphant Cross shows the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus reigns over heaven and earth.



**FISH**- Followers of Christ used the symbol of a fish as a secret sign to know who their friends were. The initials (IXOYC), the Greek word for fish, represented Jesus Christ, God's Son, and the Savior.



**SUN**- Reminds us of the light and mercies of God. Malachi 4:2 says, "the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."



**CHRISTMAS ROSE**-The White Rose is a symbol for purity. Isaiah also prophesied that one day the desert would blossom as a rose.