

A lit candle in the foreground, with a bokeh background of warm, glowing lights. The candle is lit, and the flame is bright. The background is dark with many out-of-focus, warm-colored lights, creating a bokeh effect. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

While We Wait

NOVEMBER 9, 2024
THE PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS

Welcome to Worship!

Gathering Music

Call to Worship (Rev. Christine Sine)

One: Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await his birth.

All: Let us throw off our distractions, and allow the chaos to settle.

One: Let us watch for the signs, and listen to the messengers.

All: Let us stand on tiptoe, and shout aloud and sing.

One: Something new is emerging,

All: Something new is being birthed.

Song #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Finding Hope While We Wait

A Reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

(Silence)

One: Feeling uncertain, we gather to worship the one who gives hope to the hopeless.

All: The coming of our Lord is near.

1st Advent Candle is lit.

All Sing (Tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

*In the depth of winter's darkness, lost in gloomy shades of night,
all humanity stands watching, waiting for God's promised Light.*

Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!

One: We light the candle of Hope and wait together for the hope that changes the world.

All: Draw near to us, Jesus, shine your light in the darkness.

Finding Peace While We Wait

A Reading from Malachi 3:1-4

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (adapted from Rev. Bruce Prewer)

How many times, Lord Jesus, have we missed you and failed to offer welcome? How often have you visited but we were too busy to notice? Forgive us. Open our eyes. Help us to do better this Advent. Teach us to see your presence in the ups and downs of each ordinary day so we do a better job of welcoming you into our lives. For your love's sake. Amen.

Silence

One: Recognizing our brokenness we welcome the one who transforms the world with peace.

All: The coming of our Lord is near.

2nd Advent Candle is lit.

All Sing (Tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

*In the depth of winter's darkness, lost in gloomy shades of night,
all humanity stands watching, waiting for God's promised Light.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!*

One: We light the candle of Peace and wait together for the peace that passes all understanding.

All: Draw near us, Jesus, shine your light in the darkness.

A Reading from Philippians 1:3-11

Assurance of God's Grace

Gloria

Refrain from Angels We Have heard on High

Finding Joy While We Wait

A Reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from Luke 3:7-18

Silence

One: In our work together, we celebrate the one whose arrival brings us joy.

All: The coming of our Lord is near.

3rd Advent Candle is lit

All Sing (Tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

*In the depth of winter's darkness, lost in gloomy shades of night,
all humanity stands watching, waiting for God's promised Light.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!*

One: We light the candle of Joy and wait together for the joy that comes in the midst of uncertainty.

All: Draw near us, Jesus, shine your light in the darkness.

Service of Installation

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Finding Love While We Wait

Invitation to the Table

One: We gather at the table, grateful for the love that welcomes us.

All: The coming of our Lord is near.

4th Advent Candle is lit

All Sing (Tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

*In the depth of winter's darkness, lost in gloomy shades of night,
all humanity stands watching, waiting for God's promised Light.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!*

One: We light the candle of Love and wait together for love to fill every corner of our world.

All: Draw near us, Jesus, shine your light in the darkness.

Great Thanksgiving (based on Luke 1:46-55, written by Nathan Williams, Covenant PC, West Des Moines)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

One: We praise your greatness, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

You looked with favor on your unlikely servant Mary, and she delivered a blessing for all generations. You, the Almighty, have done great things, and your name is ever holy.

From the depth of your compassion, you gave life to Jesus, your Son, who came to show mercy on those who need you most, from generation to generation. His perfect love showed your strength, and his humility made the proud stumble. His death cast down from their thrones the powers of death, and his resurrection lifted humanity up from the lowliness of the grave.

Come upon us now with your Holy Spirit, and let your power overshadow this meal, O Most High.

As we share this bread and cup, fill us with the life of Jesus Christ. May we bear him into the world once again, so that we may empty ourselves of unjust wealth and fill the hungry with good things.

Make us your servant people, signs of your promise of mercy, in the name of the coming Christ. We pray in his name, saying... **Our Father...**

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Feast

Prayer After Communion

Benediction

Closing Song

We Will Go Out with Joy in the Spirit

We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God. (2x)

Alleluia! We will go out with joy Alleluia! Alleluia!