

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Joel K. Boyd

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**God of peace, Your presence reminds us we are never alone. You love each one of us.
We know that we make mistakes. Forgive us, Lord, and set us on the right path again.**

Minister: The Lord God is loving and merciful beyond our wildest dreams. God is with us in Jesus and forgives our sins through Jesus. We rejoice in celebration of this good news.

Congregation: **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All who profess faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Communion.
The Bread will be taken together, and the Cup taken together as a congregation
in celebration of our unity in Christ.*

Children are invited to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents or guardians.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

Eternal God, You bless us at all times. We give You thanks and praise for Your glory. By Your presence through Jesus, we may live and love in true peace. Stay with us, Lord, this day and all our days. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Canticle of the Turning” #88

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"From Heaven Above" *arr. by Wilbur Held*

MUSICIANS: Dave Howland, Sanctuary Choir and Danny Reeves

GREETERS: Walt and Jan Covert | **READERS:** Denise Parr, Clara Boyd, Benj and Augie Boyd

**MEADOWBROOK
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



December 3, 2023

1st Sunday in Advent | All-Family and Communion Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday in Advent | All-Family and Communion Sunday

PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J.S. Bach Dave Howland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Joel K. Boyd

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister: May the peace of the Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Minister: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

CHORAL INTROIT

**Stand in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 40:3-5) *(read responsively)* Clara Boyd

Leader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
Congregation: **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**
Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
Congregation: **the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**
Leader: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
Congregation: **for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

***GATHERING HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #92

***INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER** (based on Hebrews 12:1-3) *(in unison)* Clara Boyd

Lord, we see all those who blazed the way before us in the faith, all those cheering us on. It means we'd better get on with living out our faith today, keeping our eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Be with us by the Holy Spirit as we 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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: *Hope* Denise Parr

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you." (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: **We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

ADVENT RESPONSE "Away in a Manger" #132 v. 1

ANTHEM "Lo! He Comes, An Infant Stranger" by Simon Mold Sanctuary Choir

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Joel K. Boyd

CHORAL AMEN

OFFERTORY "Arise, The Kingdom Is At Hand" by Christopher Tye Sanctuary Choir

***DOXOLOGY** *(sing in unison)* #563

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavn'ly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:1-17 Rev. Joel K. Boyd

Minister: This is the Gospel message of our Savior.
Congregation: **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

SERMON SERIES *Close By Me Forever*
ALL-FAMILY SERMON "Be Near Me" Rev. Joel K. Boyd

Poinsettias gracing the Meeting House are given by:

Mark Dukes and Carrie Skronek
In memory of Penelope Adams Rogers

Richard and Patricia Dunwell
In memory of our parents, Raymond and Trudy Dunwell & Roger and Agnes Flowers

Michele Fecht
In honor of my children, Clara and David Fecht

John and Bonnie Hyde
In appreciation of our church family

Margot Kincheloe
In gratitude for my friend, Judy Sarns

Norm and Thelma Kubitskey
In memory of Thelma's mother, Arlene Norris

Frank Maynard

Jim and Joyce Paxton
In appreciation of our family

Jody and David Scheller
In loving memory of our daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Di Pasquale
and our nephew, Joseph James Provot, Jr.

Jody and David Scheller and Bethany Joy Grace
In love and appreciation for our Meadowbrook family.
You have touched our hearts more than you know.

Tina Wilkins-Goodearl
In memory and honor of my parents, Robert and Mary Wilkins
In memory of Daniel and Janet Goodearl

Allan and Marilyn Worth
To honor the promise of Christmas

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