

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*
From the new Presbyterian Hymnal

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary; children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Kabana's
Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Jesus says: I am coming soon!

Congregants: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Minister: There was a young woman who was with child.

Congregants: She will call him Emmanuel, God is with us!

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**O God of majesty and mystery,
Whose nature is beyond our knowing,
and yet Who has revealed Yourself
in the child of Bethlehem,
we come to You in praise and adoration
for the gift of Your presence in our world.
We are deeply aware of the darkness around us:
hate and strife, envy and deceit,
suffering and loss, greed and selfishness.
So we are grateful for times like this,
when we bow at Your manger
and know the hope of redemption.
Tune our hearts this day to sing a new song,
and let it be heard throughout our lives.**

**We are not ready, O Lord,
for the coming of Christ into our lives.
There is much we are not prepared to surrender.
We do not want to give up our wayward ways
so that we might follow where he leads.
We cherish our possessions, and do not share.
We like being our own master,
even though we do not manage that well.
Lead us again to the manger, to the child,
to the cross, to the empty tomb,
and let us again sing of Your love and joy and peace.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

Jesus did not come to this world to condemn.

Rather, he came as one of us, incarnate,
that we might be saved.

His birth, his life, his death, his resurrection
is for the redemption of us all.

Hear this most important message of Christmas:

God, through His Son Jesus Christ,
has forgiven us all our sins.

Praise His holy and blessed name!

*HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verse 3)

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Let envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²& exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵A blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

