

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Hark, the Glad Sound” tune *Chesterfield*,
setting by C.S. Lang

HYMN 338 - we sing, standing

ADVENT WREATH ~ 3rd SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Third Sunday
in Advent, we are invited to rejoice in the
Lord, for He is near. In anticipation of the joy
of Christmas, we light the third candle on the
Advent wreath, recalling that joy is one of
the surest signs of God’s presence among us.

Lord Jesus, our hearts are full of joy, for You
are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You come with the Good News
of salvation for Your holy people. **Christ,
have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the power of Your love brings us
healing and forgiveness. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you,
forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting
life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore
You to hear our prayers and to lighten the
darkness of our hearts by Your gracious
visitation; for You live and reign with the**

**Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.**

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to
God!**

PSALM 126 - we read in unison

SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to
God!**

page 173 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** - all standing

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)* - all standing

Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!
After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 345 - we sing as indicated, seated

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED - hymnal, last page
all standing

OFFERTORY

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”
tune *Quem Pastores*/setting by Kousemaker

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

all may kneel
Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD’S PRAYER

COLLECT

page 183 - **BENEDICTION**

HYMN 346 - we sing, standing

POSTLUDE - “The Advent of God” tune *St.
Thomas*, setting *Brandon*

NEWS AND NOTES

Please Join Us after the service for fellow-
ship and coffee. Thank you to Pam Clark and
Karen Bailey for serving this morning!

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 97 Offering: \$4,735

This Week Here

Wed - 1:30 PM - Bible Study
- 7:00 PM - Bell Choir
- 7:45 PM - Parish Choir

Worship Schedule

Dec 17 - 8:00 Worship Service
10:30 Christmas Pageant
Dec 24 - 9:00 Communion Service
Dec 24 - 4 & 9:00 Christmas Eve
Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
Dec 31 - 9:00 Lessons and Carols

Sunday School Parents - please say a special
thank you to your children’s Sunday School
teachers. They serve in a very important mis-
sion of our church - our children! A simple
and sincere “we appreciate your help to us
and our children” will mean so much to them.

Hope for Life, d.b.a. Hope Pregnancy Cen-
ter, located at 110 Main Street, Cheshire - our
ongoing ministry of collecting “gently used”
or new baby clothes, blankets, toys, disposa-
ble diapers, etc. for babies 0-12 months bene-
fit new mothers who have no means to sup-
port a newborn child. No stuffed animals
please. Items purchased new or from the bas-
inet located in the hallway.

Attn Council Members! If you have not al-
ready done so, please hand in your year-end
reports to the office by January 2 so that it
may be included in the Annual Report.

Portals of Prayer (daily home devotional
booklets for adults) - regular & large-print
editions - on Narthex table. Help yourself to a
copy - and take one for a friend, if you wish.



A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness When he preaches re-
pentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to
bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with
water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from
their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and
makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to
bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing
of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salva-
tion” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jew-
els” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and
“give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has cal-
led you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and
soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess.
5:23–24).