

## **December 5, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **Prelude**

### **Ringling of the Bell**

**Opening Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 120 - "There's A Voice In the Wilderness" - This hymn by J. Lewis Milligan was written in 1925 celebrating the creation of the United Church of Canada. It announces the coming of Emmanuel, the son of God.

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Arise, people of God, to receive the Lord's messenger; be reminded of our covenant with the living God.

Congregation: God has done great things for us; we are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Liturgist: The messenger of God reminds us of promises made and of good work not yet completed.

Congregation: We are refined in the fires of God's love and purified to carry forward God's intent.

Liturgist: God will lead us in all times and places; God is with us here to bless and confront.

Congregation: We dedicate this hour of worship to God's glory, opening ourselves to true encounter with the Eternal.

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle – Corey and Stacy Noltner Family**

**Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 110 - "Now Bless the God of Israel" - This text by Ruth Duck is considered a morning prayer. It closes with "Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!"

### **Confession of Sin**

You have been patient with us, loving God, for we have blended in with our surroundings and denied your claims on us. We revel in the things we have made for ourselves, forgetting that you have supplied the resources and granted us the ability to create. We have failed to embrace your way of love and have become prisoners of our own self-seeking ways. Forgive us, O God, that we may partake of your grace and manifest the fruits of righteousness. Amen.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

### **Gloria Patri** (Instrumental)

**Old Testament Lesson** – Malachi 3:1-4 – The messenger Malachi speaks of will be a transformative leader, one who shakes up the routine piety into which the people have fallen and one who tempers and cleanses the community, returning it to a right relationship with God.

### **Hymn of Praise from the Sunday School Program Youth** (Video)

## **Children's Sermon**

**Epistle Lesson** – Philippians 1:3-11 – Paul is still giving thanks, even from prison. He expresses hope that the gathered community will mature and strengthen in faith as they prepare for the coming of the Holy One. He invites them to “live toward Christ”.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Offering**

**Offertory** - NCH 116 - “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” - The refrain is a celebration of His coming!

### **Doxology**

**Gospel Lesson** – Luke 3:1-6 – The evangelist locates us both in the world and beyond it, describing not only what currently exists, but also what is coming. We are invited to know ourselves in a tension between “now” and “not yet”.

## **Sermon**

## **Communion**

**Closing Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 43 - “Loves Devine, All Loved Excelling” - This hymn was written by Charles Wesley. While it is quite recognizable, it is one of 6,500 hymns written by him throughout his lifetime.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**