

December 20, 2020

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a
community of disciples
with a heart for God
and hands to help others.

eypc.org

* = All who are able please stand. ♦ **boldface** = congregation participates

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of Love, you love us so much. We are here to worship you and return love as best we know how, singing your praises, reading your word, and listening for your Holy Spirit. Bless this time, Amen.

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Here is your God" among us in this celebration.

**People: God is like a shepherd feeding the flock, embracing us
in love and bringing us mercy and consolation.**

Leader: May this God among us, the Lord Jesus, be always with you.

People: And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Week Four (Love)

**HYMNS – *God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman* (verse 1) Jillian Dykes
O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 1) Juliana Smith**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

**People: May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Hearing the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 10-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *Do Not Be Afraid*

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

HYMN – *Joy to the World* (verse 1)

Gabe Cross

Going Forth to Serve

BENEDICTION

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Lauren Cochran, Pastor

Kurt Schweitz, Messenger Band Director, Pageant Editor Extraordinaire

Lea Schweitz, Director of Children's Ministries

Reader, Angie Udelhofen

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor