**Worship Plan for Sunday December 22, 2019**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**GATHERING SONG** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (ELW 266)*

**WREATH LIGHTING & PRAYER -** (Use this blessing when lighting the first four candles)

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**Let us rejoice, for the son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us.**

**Amen**

**CHOIR ANTHEM People Look East**

**Special Music Lauren McClung, piano**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Starry Night, Noisy Night

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

**PEACE**

 The peace of Christ be with you always.

 **And also with you.**

 *(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending, the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Hear your church, O God, as we pray for all who belong to Jesus Christ. Where the church is scorned, preserve it; where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear your earth, O God, as we pray for its healing and care. Protect the grapevine and the mighty cedar, the mountains and seas and all that is in them. Give life, that all life may call on your name. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear the nations, O God, as we pray for those who hold power and authority over people and lands. Help those who create and uphold good laws and those working to reform what is unjust, that the world might better reflect your grace. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear those in need, O God, as we pray for all who face uncertainty: refugees and immigrants, those who are imprisoned, and those without work, housing, food, or heath care. Bring good news to all in need of hope. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear this community of faith, O God, as we pray for families and friends who gather in this season. For travelers and hosts, and for those who will work or serve others this Christmas. Let the peace of Emmanuel, God-with-us, whine in every heart. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear all who mourn, O God, as we remember the lives of our beloved dead. Encourage the living to learn from our ancestors in faith as we follow your call. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word
dwelling among us full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in Jesus’ death and resurrection.
And we look with hope for your coming.
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

And teach us to pray…

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

 *(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of abundance,

We give you thanks that in this holy meal

You have invited us to feast with you and one another.

May the taste of your love remain with us,

And may our words and our work in your name

Invite others into your bountiful grace.

Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the

glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**announcements**

**Blessing**The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor, + and give you peace.
**Amen.**

*Turn to your neighbor and tell him or her,*

***In Jesus Christ***

***--- we have hope.***

 ***Share hope by the bucketful!***

**Sending Song**  *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (ELW 254)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.
**Thanks be to God!**

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000806.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.