

**honest  
advent**





## prelude

*Gloria, hallelu*

*Christ the Lord, we've longed for You*

## call to worship

Let us prepare our hearts

**as we await the coming of our Lord,**

Let us watch for the one who heard our cries

**and shouldered the suffering of our world,**

Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world

**with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.**

Let us wait in expectation for the day

**when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.**

## here I am to worship

Tim Hughes

Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

*So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

*I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross*

## come thou long expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee  
Day-spring from on high, appear.  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to Him your praises bringing  
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end.  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **Candle lighting and scripture reading**

Faithful God, out of death You bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. **God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 2:1-20

## come light our hearts

Sandra McCracken

*For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait [2x]*

*Truly our hope is in You [2x]*

O Lord of life our only hope  
Your radiance shines on all who look  
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come  
Come light our hearts

O joy above all other loves  
In You we find more than enough  
We come as we are O heal and restore  
Come light our hearts

## kids dismissal

### sermon

*Vulnerability*

### a poem for reflection

*Mary's Song - Luci Shaw*

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast  
keep warm this small hot naked star  
fallen to my arms. (Rest ...  
you who have had so far to come.)  
Now nearness satisfies  
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies  
whose vigor hurled a universe. He sleeps  
whose eyelids have not closed before.  
His breath (so slight it seems  
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps  
to sprout a world. Charmed by doves' voices,  
the whisper of straw, he dreams,  
hearing no music from his other spheres.

Breath, mouth, ears, eyes  
he is curtailed who overflowed all skies,  
all years. Older than eternity, now he  
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed  
to my poor planet, caught  
that I might be free, blind in my womb  
to know my darkness ended,  
brought to this birth for me to be new-born,  
and for him to see me mended  
I must see him torn.

### communion

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

### baby son

John Mark McMillan

We thought You'd come with a crown of gold  
A string of pearls and a cashmere robe  
We thought You'd clinch an iron fist  
And rain like fire on the politics

*But without a sword no armored guard  
But common born in mother's arms  
The government now rests upon  
The shoulders of this Baby Son*

Have you no room inside your heart  
The inn is full the out is dark  
But upon profane shines sacred sun  
Not ashamed to be one of us

Gloria, Allelu  
Christ the Lord we've longed for You

## **open up**

The Brilliance

Hope for the hopeless, Your love is  
Strength in our weakness, Your love is  
May we love as You love

May Your love cause us to open up  
Cause us to open up our hearts  
May Your light cause us to shine so bright  
That we bring hope into the dark

## **o come let us adore him**

O come, let us adore Him[3x]  
Christ the Lord

For He alone is worthy...  
We give You all the glory...  
We praise Your name forever...

## **generosity**

Father, You are an abundant giver.  
There is nothing that we have  
that You have not given us.  
The way of Your kingdom is the way of generosity.  
Help us to honor You with our resources.  
Free us from the deceit of riches.  
Lead us on the path of generosity.  
May it be for Your glory,  
for the abundance of our lives,  
and for the sake of others. Amen.

## **benediction**

## announcements and invitations

- **StoryFeast Women's Gathering:** December 9, 10am
- **Christmas Extravaganza:** December 15th, 6pm  
*Kids Program, Christmas Karaoke, Ugly Sweater Contest, and more!*
- **Christmas Eve Gathering:** December 24th, 4pm
- **No Church Gathering:** Sunday December 31

## visit the central hub

To give of tithes & offerings, see important announcement details, and take next steps, visit:

[bit.ly/3VrftL](https://bit.ly/3VrftL)

## artwork used

*Star Baby* and *Light* by Scott Erickson

