

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, December 20, 2020

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;

we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

The angel appears to Mary

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God: Your mercy is great.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who are 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.

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

+ now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG "Your Everlasting Love"

Verse 1:

Your everlasting love is higher, higher, higher than the sky. Your everlasting love is higher, higher, higher than the sky, Higher than the sky.

Oh, the wonder of Your everlasting love is higher than the sky.

Chorus:

Higher than the heavens above is the glory of Your wonderful love. I'm lost in the mystery of Your everlasting love, Your everlasting love.

Verse 2:

Your everlasting love is deeper, deeper, deeper than the sea. Your everlasting love is deeper, deeper, deeper than the sea, Deeper than the sea.

Oh, the wonder of Your everlasting love is deeper than the sea.

Chorus:

Verse 3:

Your everlasting love is reaching, reaching, reaching out to me. Your everlasting love is reaching, reaching, reaching out to me, Reaching out to me.

Oh, the wonder of Your everlasting love is reaching out to me.