

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence/ arr. C. Curry
The First Nowell/ arr. C. Curry
Kathleen Golias, Piano

◇ A time of quiet preparation

WORDS OF GREETING

PRAYER

WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

THE ANGEL CANDLE

Nancy Barnosky

*WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Let us pray:

God of love,

We live in a world that pursues power and money, and we do too.
yet you came in weakness, as a child.

All year long, and in this season especially,
we want more stuff, more for us,

but you gave us yourself, and you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of our Lord Jesus,
who comes among us full of grace and truth,

forgive us, heal us, correct us.

**Then open our lips,
that we may sing your praise with the angels,**

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to presents and decor
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us
from seeing and believing in Your Song,
let your grace fill us, O God.

**Forgive our doubt and renew our hopes in Christ alone,
that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story
of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.
In His name we ask, Amen.**

adapted from the *Worship Sourcebook*

*WE EXALT OUR LORD

WORSHIP SONGS

Leader: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Galatians 4: 4-5 (NIV)

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus/* A. Page

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 5: 22 - 6:27 (NIV)

²²Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? ²³Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

^{6:1} Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

²God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens.

⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring

you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.' "

⁹Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and cruel bondage.

¹⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹"Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country."

¹²But Moses said to the LORD, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?"

¹³Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹⁴These were the heads of their families:

The sons of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel were Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

¹⁵The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon.

¹⁶These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.

¹⁹The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.

These were the clans of Levi according to their records.

²⁰Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

²¹The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zicri.

²²The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri.

²³ Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²⁴The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite clans.

²⁵Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas.

These were the heads of the Levite families, clan by clan.

²⁶It was this same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions." ²⁷They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. It was the same Moses and Aaron.

SERMON

Ordinary People
series in Exodus
Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PREPARATION

THE INVITATION

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Please Note: An elder is available in the rear of the sanctuary during communion to pray with you regarding any needs or issues in your life.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN NEED

THE LOVE OFFERING/CLOSING HYMN **198** (vss. 1-2, 4-6)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR
(4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE