

JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH
December 7, 2025 ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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The Approach to God

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”
(From Isaiah 2)

We are Gathered by God

“Prelude on an Ancient Advent Melody”, Wachet auf, © 1981 (this arr. 1997) Belwin-Mills Pub. Corp, (ASCAP),
All Rights Admin. By Warner Bros. Pub. U.S. Inc.” Claudia Bracaliello, Organist
Call to Worship (*Lighting the Advent Candles*) Heather Gockel, Reader

Speaker: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction.

We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly,
helps us find our way again.

**People: “Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we
may be saved” (Psalm 80:2b-3).**

(The first candle is lit.)

Speaker: Light one candle; see it glow brightly, so that all may know how one candle shows the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Hymn: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Our Prayer of Confession (*Unison*). Rev. Richard A. Dykstra, Minister
**Lord, so often we have been like those who waited for You to send a Savior. We have prayed for You
to deliver us from our circumstances but we have been unwilling to accept Your leadership in our
lives. Forgive us, Lord, for not seeing Your presence around us and for acting at times like Jesus had
not been born... (Silent prayer).** In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Response: “Be near me, Lord Jesus”

Words of Assurance (Based on Hebrews 9:27-28)

Leader: Just as it is appointed for us to die once, and after that comes judgment,

**All: So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time,
not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**

Leader: Rejoice in the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, who gave all, you are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

The Summary of the Law

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace

“The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you”

Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-44 Heather Gockel, Reader

Anthem: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”, David Angerman and Joseph M. Martin (BMI),

© 2005, Glory Sound and Malcolm Music, Div. of Shawnee Press, Inc., New York, NY 10010

..... Dan Chien, Choir Director

Sermon: “Swords Into Plowshares”

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory: “A Litany for Advent”, arr. Shirley W. McRae, © 1991 Choristers Guild

Prayer of Dedication & Doxology

Prayers on Intercession (*including The Lord’s Prayer*)

Hymn: “All The Earth is Waiting”

Benediction

Postlude: “Prepare the Way, O Zion”, Swedish Melody, © 1960 Augsburg Pub. House