**Sunday, December 16, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Psalm 130:5-7*

This is the season of Advent – the season where we prepare for Christmas. It’s a season when we not only celebrate the coming Messiah, but we remember the anticipation of the world for Him. We remember Israel, who heard of his coming from the prophets, we remember those who need to experience his mercy for the first time as the church lives out its mission, and we remember that he will come again.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.*

*My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.*

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

*O Israel, hope in the Lord!*

*For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.*

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

**Song of Praise –** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**Confession**

O God, you give us your good news

and call us into a new covenant relationship with you.

Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let the valleys be lifted up!

**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,**

**and lift from us depressions and worry.**

Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the mountains be leveled off!

**End our pride and take away our arrogance:**

**save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**

Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the crooked be made straight!

**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;**

**defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the rough be made smooth!

**Help us grow in understanding,**

**and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.**

Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.

Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**Redeem your world, and make all things new,**

**and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,**

**now and for all eternity.**

Keep us humble and faithful.

Save us and sanctify us, O God.  
 **For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.** *Take a moment to silently confess your sins. Ask the Lord to shine his light into your heart, showing you places where sin has deep roots, and needs the grace of God to uproot.*

**Song of Worship –** *Give Us Clean Hands*

**Assurance of Pardon**  *- Isaiah 40:1-2*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Songs of Worship** *– Jesus Paid It All/Jesus, The Son of God*

**Offering *(“We will not have the intended effect of Christmas until we feel desperately the need for a Savior.” John Piper)***

**Proclaiming the Glory of His Name**  With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth,

made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming opened to us the way of salvation and whose triumphant return we eagerly await. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Songs of Worship –** *Our Great God/O Come, All Ye Faithful***Message** – *“The Two Demon Possessed Men”*   
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 8:28-34*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship –** *Face to Face*

**Closing Prayer**

Eternal God,

you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,

and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**