# Sunday, **Prelude**

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: God's vision of peace is a realm where all live together in harmony,

People: enemies become friends, fear gives way to understanding

Leader: God calls us to be this community; **People: let us gather together to worship.** 

### \*Hymn # 82 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### **Affirmation of Peace**

Leader: Jesus came as a helpless baby to bring down the powerful from their thrones and lift up the lowly. **People: We are made strong, even in our weakness. This is our peace.** 

Leader: Jesus grew to be a curious child, trading wisdom with the teachers at the temple.

People: We are welcome in God's house, even with all of our questions. This is our peace.

- Leader: Jesus was baptized and called God's Son, even before he had done any ministry or had any disciples.
- People: We are children of God, no matter where we come from or what we have done. This is our peace.

Leader: Jesus worked hard, felt tired, rested, and spent time alone.

People: We listen to the rhythms of our bodies. We take time to rest. This is our peace.

Leader: Jesus was challenged, confronted, accused, and condemned.

People: We are not alone in our suffering or oppression. This is our peace.

Leader: Jesus promised a kingdom of justice, where he has built everyone a home and where there is no more pain.

People: Our sins, struggles, and sorrows will cease, and we will be at home with Jesus. This is the peace of our faith.

## **Prayer for Peace**

**Congregational Response: Hymn 90 – Wait for the Lord (x2)** 

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

**Call to Confession** 

# **Prayer of Confession**

God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom. Amen.



# Sunday, Assurance of Pardon

### \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **People: And also with you.** 

# **Time with Children**

After the Time with Children, we invite children to return to their seats and participate in the service. Activity bags may be found on the welcome table.

# **Choral Anthem**

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Mary: A Servant of the Lord

# \*Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace. This search requires that the nations pursue fresh and responsible relations across every line of conflict, even at risk to national security, to reduce areas of strife and to broaden international understanding. Reconciliation among nations becomes peculiarly urgent as countries develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, diverting their resources from constructive uses and risking the annihilation of humanity. Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling. Amen.

\*Hymn # 498 – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

# Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your heart.
People: We lift them up to the Lord!
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# **Prayers of the People**

The Lord's Prayer

Sunday,

Our Father who art 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

# The Sharing of the Meal

Prayer After Communion God, our Provision, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs.
By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby.
In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

# **Invitation to Offering**

Offertory

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** 

\*Hymn # 105 – People, Look East

\*Charge and Benediction

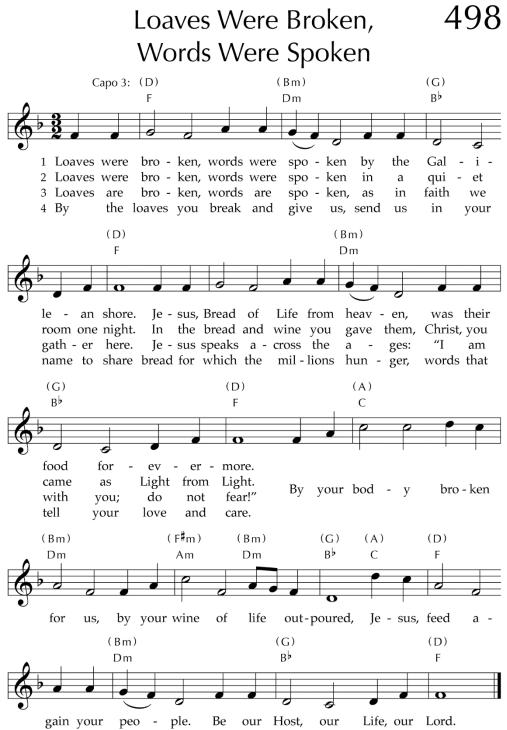
# \*Congregational Response: Hymn #90 – Wait for the Lord (x2)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Postlude



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2005

Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

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Sunday,



This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7 Sunday,

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

