

# Order for the Worship of God

OPENING PRAYER

Highland Presbyterian Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

**God most particular,  
descending from generalities  
to show yourself in person,  
and speak to John the Baptist  
in a particular time and place,  
make our love for you  
as particular and specific  
as your love for us,  
beginning here, beginning now,  
through the leveler of mountains  
and the straightener of crooked ways,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

Dr. Kit Loong Yee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kelly

MOMENT FOR MISSION

John Dye

CENTERING SONG

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

see <sup>H</sup>HYMN  
<sup>I</sup>insert

*Let's Worship and Adore Him*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Luke 1:68-79)*

Dr. Tom Tucker LIGHTING OF SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE Connie

Raise your voices, lift up your hearts.  
Praise the One, the only One, life-giving God of Israel:  
**You have turned to your people and set them free.  
You have raised a strong deliverer  
from the house of your servant David.**

Raise your voices, lift up your hearts.  
**Thank God for the messengers of hope,  
who bring knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of sins.**

Raise your voices, lift up your hearts.  
**An ancient promise is fulfilled:  
On people who live in a dark night,  
under the shadow of death,  
the dawn from heaven breaks to free us all from fear  
and guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Praise God! Praise God! Amen.**

The gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:  
In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius . . .  
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah . . .  
He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:1-3)

God comes to us through particular people,  
in particular places and times  
in the past, and here and now.

Our second candle, the candle of peace, reminds us to look  
for the light of God in God's messengers today.

**Living Christ, give us hearts full of hope for tomorrow  
and peace that we might live today.**

ADORNING THE TREE WITH CHRISMONS – THE SYMBOLS OF

You are invited to come forward and place Chrismons on the

+At this sign, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold: all people respond**

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Dear God,**

**In the remaining days of our Advent journey, a special time of great expectancy, help us to remember.**

**Direct our thoughts towards the countless blessings you have bestowed on each one of us.**

**Forever remind us that we belong to you, and the love you have for your children remains constant and unconditional.**

**Let us never forget that the essence of all we are and ever hope to be we owe to you.**

**Give us thankful hearts for the precious gift of life to be cherished always.**

**Hold deep within each of us the memories of those faithful who have gone before us to illuminate and show us the way.**

**Help us to remember that without our faith in you, our lives become immobile and useless.**

**Take our hands and lead us step by step to the manger in Bethlehem. For we know Christ is coming. Christ is coming indeed! Amen.**

+ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

+PASSING THE PEACE

May the blessing of God,  
the Welcoming Word, the All-cleansing Spirit,  
and the Radiance of Original Love  
rest and remain with you all.

**And also with you.**

## THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4

+HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

A LAMP THAT BURNED FOR A WHILE

## RESPONSE

+HYMN

*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles’ Creed

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## EUCHARIST

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

+CLOSING PRAYER

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Hymn 3