

**THE WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**AT SWIFT CHURCH**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**ALL LITURGY IS CREDITED TO:**  
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art  
LLC/sanctifiedart.org

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** “Once in Royal David’s City”

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Chuck Carneal

Leader: In this weary world,

**People: we sing of joy.**

Leader: In this fragile world,

**People: we lift each other up.**

Leader: In this beautiful world,

**People: we look for God.**

Leader: In this tender world,

**People: we hold onto hope.**

Leader: This is the invitation of faith. So, in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**People: With hope in our hearts, amen!**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**THE CANDLE OF JOY** Cindy and Jim Wilson

**RESPONSE HYMN** “While We Are Waiting, Come” Vs. 1

**While we are waiting, come:**

**While we are waiting, come,**

**Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,**

**While we are waiting, come.**

**MOMENT FOR YOUNG WORSHIPERS**

(And the young at heart!)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Silent Prayer* “Lead Me, Lord”

**Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader ...an the same will be true tomorrow.

**People: Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**\*RESPONSE**

“Gloria Patri” #623

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING**

Matthew 1:18–25

**SECOND READING**

Luke 1:46–55

**RESPONSE**

Leader: The is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Hope Is Worth the Risk”  
Reverend Alexandra Hutson

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Vs.1–3 #123

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Excerpt from “A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken-hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying. “Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.**

*\*please stand as you are able*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Offertory "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

**\*RESPONSE** "What Can I Give Him?" #154

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wiseman I would do my part:  
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

### PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

## SENDING

**HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #132

**\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

**\*CHARGE**

Leader: Good people of Swift Church, who are you?

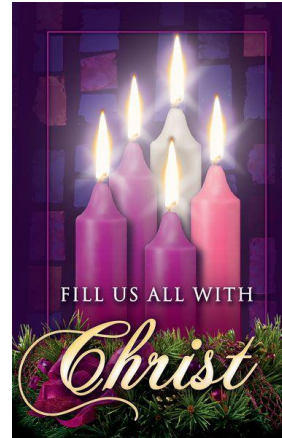
People: **Striving to bring God joy, we proclaim  
Christ's love and Grace through serving and  
nurturing body, mind and soul.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

Music is licensed through CCLI.

**There will be a called congregational  
meeting today immediately after  
the worship service to elect the  
class of 2027 church officers.**



### December Special Mission Offering

Our mission offering for December is the Presbyterian Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian churches of Alabama, that cares for teenage girls who have experienced abuse or neglect, and boys and girls of all ages and their caregivers, who find themselves homeless because of poverty, abuse, or abandonment. The offering collected on Christmas Eve will be sent to support this mission. However, during the entire month of December, you can give to this mission by making your check or offering envelope "for PHFC mission."

Please join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments immediately following worship!



# Welcome to Swift Church

December 22, 2024

Striving to bring God joy!



We proclaim Christ's love and  
grace through serving and nurturing  
body, mind, and soul.

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