

JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH
December 14, 2025 ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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We are Gathered by God

Prelude: "Prepare the Way, O Zion", arr. Richard Blake,

© 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co., a div. of the Lorenz Corp. Dan Chien, Organist/Choir Director

Introit: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", arr. Lloyd Larson, © 1998 in Choral Responses for Today's Worship,
Hope Pub. Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188

Call to Worship. Grace Walker, Reader

Speaker: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

People: "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky."

(Psalm 85:10-11)

(The first two candles are lit.)

Light two candles; see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

People: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer of Invocation

Our Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

O Lord, help us to remember that even as the prophets spoke in ages past, they still speak to us today. We too easily put what they said only in the context of history, and forget the power of their messages to us. We are guilty of separating ourselves from the message that stands for all time. Teach us anew what it means to live as your people. Inspire us with the timeless vision of your world at peace....(silent prayer.) Amen.

The Response: "Thou didst leave Thy throne"

Assurance of Pardon & Summary of the Law

Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

We Hear God in Word

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12 Carol Ann Dykstra, Reader

Anthem: "Creation will be at Peace", by Anna Laura Page (ASCAP), © 1992 by Alfred Pub. Co., Inc.

Sermon: "A Perfect World"

We Respond to God

Offertory: "Christmas Communion Song", John A. Ray - words, Susan Naylor Callaway - music,

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Prayer of Dedication and Doxology

The Service of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

Benediction

Choral Response: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*Reprise*)

Postlude: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming", arr. Lloyd Larson, © 2007 Lorenz Pub. Co.,
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