

## **2025 After Christmas Virtual Worship Service**

### **The Synod of the Covenant**

#### **PRELUDE**

*“Christmas Time is Here” by Vince Guardaldi*  
Cindy Moore and Sand Marshall, Muskingum Valley

#### **WELCOME**

Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Synod of the Covenant

#### **We Respond to the Glory of Our Lord**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      Jose Jones, Miami Valley

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise the Lord kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

**All: Praise the Lord!**

One: Praise the Lord!

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Korean PC/Metro Detroit Presbyterian Church*

**We Confess Our Sins in the Presence of the Holy One**

**CALL OF CONFESSION** Wayne DeMarco, CRE Western Reserve

Like a great light in the land of deep darkness, Jesus has come to shine the mercy of the Lord on all of us. Knowing this mercy and trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. You grew in wisdom and in divine and human favor. All too often, we don't worry about growing in wisdom or in grace, and we seek human favor while forgetting that your divine favor is even more important. Forgive us, gracious God, for our refusal to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We turn from this and all our sin. By the power of your Spirit, sanctify us to be more like him, each and every day. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(note for screen: please include on the screen)*

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Detroit*

## **We Attend to His Holy Word**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** Tim Pollock, Synod of the Covenant

**OLD TESTAMENT** *Isaiah 63:7-9 (NRSV)*  
Ewen Todd, Lake Michigan

**NEW TESTAMENT** *Matthew 2:1-15 (NRSV)*  
Orlando Totobesola, Lake Michigan

**REFLECTION** Keith Schroedor, CRE Mackinac

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Korean PC/Metro Detroit Presbyterian Church*

## **We Affirm Our Unity**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** Illianna Levenson, Western Reserve  
*“Darkness and Light” by Cally Booker*

We believe in God,  
robed in splendour,  
veiled in mystery,  
ruler alike of darkness and light.

We encounter God  
in Jesus Christ,  
who was tortured and put to death,  
but whose radiance could not be quenched;  
whose touch brings a blaze of colour  
to a dull, drab world:  
reviving the weary,  
healing the wounded,  
dazzling the satisfied.

We walk with God,  
guided by the light of God’s loving spirit,  
who enters the shadowed places of our hearts  
and leads us into truth and life.

We wait for God,  
 and for the fulfilment of God's promises,  
 for the time when the darkness will hold no fear  
 and the light will no longer blind,  
 but creation will be made whole once more  
 and God's peace will reign for ever.  
 Amen

### **We Petition Our Merciful Father**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Jill Morrison Warner, CRE Muskingum Valley  
*"Light in the World" by John Davies*

Lord Jesus,  
 you are the light of the world.  
 Shine in the dark places  
 where there are wars  
 and where people hurt each other.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Lord Jesus,  
 you are the light of the world.  
 Help our leaders  
 to know how to run this country and this city  
 so that everybody's needs are met,  
 especially those who are suffering.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Lord Jesus,  
 you are the light of the world.  
 Shine in the dark places  
 where people are ill or sad.  
 Please bring help and healing especially to ...  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Lord Jesus,  
 we are your lights in the world.  
 Help us to be prepared  
 to show people your light  
 by loving them.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Lord Jesus,  
 we are your lights in the world.  
 Help us to be prepared  
 to put the needs of others  
 before our own needs  
 for your sake.  
 Lord, in your mercy  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Lord Jesus,  
 we are your lights in the world.  
 Help us to be prepared  
 to look out for you  
 and listen out for you  
 so we can follow you in everything we do.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN**

### **We Go Out Into the World in Peace**

**BENEDICTION**      Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario, Synod of the Covenant

**POSTLUDE**      *Korean PC/Metro Detroit Presbyterian Church*