

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible pg. 865

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

L: The season of Advent continues. Thousands of years of waiting for the Messiah are commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

P: We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, signs of God’s love and symbols of our faith.

L: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

P: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

L: Today we will light the candle of peace.

P: This light, too, must brave the great darkness.

L: In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth knows the sorrow of war, we light a fire called peace.

P: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all - that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

L: Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

P: In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candles of peace and hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease.
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3: 1-4 & 4: 5-6

Stan Dickerson
Pew Bible pgs. 889-890

ANTHEM "Communion Meditation" Douglas Wagner
Bell Choir and Flutist, Leah Moy

SCRIPTURE Luke 3: 1-6 Pew Bible pg. 60

SERMON "Preparations" Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory "Wake, awake, for night is flying" Philip Nicolai,
arr. D. Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* "Doxology"
Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #20 (Hymnal)* "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise. [The Minister continues.]

God is praised for the history of faithfulness shown to God's people. The congregation then joins the celestial choirs and all the faithful of every time and place to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues with thanksgiving for the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Words of Institution are recalled. The elements are set apart for their sacred use, and we offer ourselves to God's service. Then, this response:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

*The presence of the Holy Spirit is sought, as well as God's blessing on our lives.
The prayer concludes with a Trinitarian doxology.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison Choir and Congregation)

**Albert Hay Malotte,
arr. D. Klotzbeacher**

7 Our Fa - ther, which art in hea - ven, Hal-low-ed

13 be thy Name. Thy king-dom come,

18 Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea -

26 ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our debts, As

31 we for-give our debt-tors. And lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv er us from

36 e - vil: For thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er, and the glo - ry for

ev - er, A - men.

