

**Prelude:** *Of the Farther's Love Begotten*, Ludwig Lenel

**Welcome, Opening of the Word and Invocation** (Jeremiah 29:11)

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Hymn #818**

**Responsive Reading:**

Leader: As half the world marks time in our journey to the shortest day and beyond, As half the world marks time in our journey to the longest day and beyond,

**All: The pinnacle and the nadir of the Sun who warms us, reminds us that we can't survive alone.**

Leader: We have been gathered from fields where God once rooted us and let us blossom.

**All: Let us be spun into threads that together can ignite holy fire.**

Leader: We have been unearthed and revealed from the womb of the Earth.

**All: Let us be refined and wrought into a circle of iron that can bear the heaviness of waiting.**

Leader: We have been formed in love in the hive of hardworking communities for the sake of the whole world.

**All: Let us be living branches, woven together to make a chosen family that summons us to life.**

Leader: Connect, re-connect, reveal our new life in your Gracious Mystery. We are waiting, in the summer twilight and in the wonder of the winter night.

**All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel! Amen\***

**Opening Prayer (please kneel, said in unison)**

**Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and you.\*\***

**An Affirmation of Worship**

We worship God, our loving Lord, who made us; who taught us in the Bible that all people are God's children, and that we should love God and each other. When people turned away from God, he loved us enough to be born in our world as a baby. He grew up and lived the life he wants us to live. Risen now, he is still with us, our Lord and our God, helping us to grow more like him. This is why we know him as our Savior. We are his disciples when we love him, and show our love for him by being kind and helpful to one another.

**Children's Message**

**Advent Meditation:** Resting in Holy Darkness

**Time of Reflection:** *A Virgin Pure*, Nicolas Lebegue

**Closing Prayer**

Prayer of Gratitude

The Lord's Prayer

**Offering:** *The Star Proclaims the King is Here*, Kaspar Othmayr

**Offertory Response (please stand, sung in unison):**

**We give Thee but Thine Own, Whate'er the gift may be;**

**All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee**

**Closing Hymn #805**

**Benediction\*\*\***

**Postlude:** *The First Nowell*, Hugo Gehrke

\*Disrupt Worship Project, modified by Shada Sullivan

\*\*A New Zealand Prayer Book and Jim Cotter, modified

\*\*\*A New Zealand Prayer Book