

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*UMH – United Methodist Hymnal FWS – Faith We Sing WAS – Worship and Song*

The purpose of the CHRISMON SERVICE is to portray the drama of redemption through song and symbol. The journey to Bethlehem is also a journey to Calvary and ultimately to heaven. In this service we share the message of proclaiming Jesus Christ and his victory.

## Welcome and Announcements

## Children's Time

## Opening Music

Dr. Olga Aynvarg

## Advent Candlelighting

**Song** "We Wait in Hope" by Joel Raney Choir and Congregation, see insert

Advent is a time to watch.

**We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

**We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent, we watch in hope for peace in the midst of conflict.

**We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for the presence of the Lord in the midst of a very fallen world.

**We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.**

*Light the first candle*

**Advent Reader:** This morning we light two candles. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in anticipation for God to fulfill every promise set forth in the Bible. The second candle reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present, and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence and open eyed to see all that God is doing.

*Light the second candle.*

**Song Refrain** "We Wait in Hope" by Joel Raney Choir and Congregation, see insert

*Choir and Candlelighters are seated*

## Hymn

"God Almighty, We Are Waiting"

W&S #3047

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

## Christmas Confession

*Reader 1*

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide people to the holy child Jesus, we confess at this hour that instead of the light of your Word we have followed the tinsel and glitter of a consumerist culture.

**Instead of signs of your love in the world, we have searched for evidence of our own technological cleverness.**

We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth.

**We have questioned the good news.**

We have expected little and hoped for less.

**Forgive us Lord, for such self-serving symbols that mark our lives.**

**Open our hearts to your abiding presence.**

May the joy of the angels become our joy.

**May the devotion of the shepherds become our devotion.**

May the vision of the wise men become our vision.

**May the wonder of your love be born in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH # 196

## Introduction to Chrismons (Craig)

### Presentation of the Nativity Symbols

*(The person with the appropriate Chrismon will bring it forward to the decorator at the tree as the Scripture passage referring to that symbol is read.)*

#### The Five-point Star

**Matthew 2:1-2**

**Reader 2:** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Leader: The Five-pointed star represents the Epiphany Star; which is the Manifestation of Jesus as King of Judah to the Wise Men. Jesus is also referred to as the bright morning star in Revelation.

**People: With heart and soul we rejoice, for the Star reminds us of God's morning star, rising over our lives.**

#### The 8-Point Star

**Titus 3:3-6**

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

**Reader 1:** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Leader:** The eight-pointed star is the Star of Redemption or Regeneration and represents baptism. Eight is traditionally the number of regeneration, and thus many baptismal fonts have an octagonal base. Jesus was circumcised and named when he was eight days old (the traditional Jewish practice); baptism is seen as the New Testament equivalent of circumcision. Finally, eight persons were saved in Noah's ark, which is another Old Testament parallel of baptism.

**People: With heart and soul we rejoice, for the Eight-Point Star reminds us of our own baptisms, and the new life we have through our faith in Jesus Christ.**

**Anthem**                      "Come to the Light" by Joseph Martin                      Choir

## **Presentation of the Passion Symbols**

**Leader:** It is right that we rejoice, that we honor him, that we sing his praise, for the glory of God is about him. Yet the love of God is greater than all the celestial splendor of the heavenly host.

**People: In that love, he gave us his life in innocent suffering.**

Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, yet the powers of death could not contain that love.

**The powers of sin could not break that love. Now we know our Redeemer lives and has become the first fruits of them that sleep.**

### **The Latin Cross**

**John 19:16-18**

**Reader 2:** Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew<sup>[a]</sup> is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Leader: This Cross with its longer upright than crossbar is the probable form on which Jesus was crucified; therefore, the foremost symbol of Christianity.

## **The Greek Cross**

Leader: The Greek Cross is made of equal length cross bars.

## **The Maltese Cross**

Leader: The Maltese Cross is made from four straight lined pointed arrowheads, meeting at their points, with the ends of the arms consisting of indented 'v's. It became associated with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, and the eight points of the cross have come to signify eight virtues of courage, or the eight Beatitudes found in the Sermon on the Mount.

## **The Jerusalem Cross**

Leader: The Jerusalem Cross is made up of four smaller Greek Crosses joined in the center. The four outer crosses symbolize the historic division of Jerusalem into four quarters: The Jewish Quarter, The Armenian Quarter, The Christian Quarter, and The Muslim Quarter.

**People: We honor Christ with the offering of these crosses, recalling that, with his arms outstretched on a cross, Jesus seeks to embrace the whole world, and his love is given to an entire world.**

Hymn                    “What Wondrous Love is this?” vv. 1-3    UMH # 292

## **Presentation of the Symbols Of Victory**

Leader: In his victory over sin and death, Christ becomes our Redeemer and Savior. He, who could have conquered all in glory and power, chose instead to give himself in love. This is the joy which is to all people; that love was born at Christmas, love Incarnate, love Divine. May that love be yours, and may that love be mine. These last gifts we bring point to the VICTORIOUS CHRIST, who raises us up to be one with God.

## **The Chi Rho on Sun Globe**

**Matthew 16:15-16**

**Reader 1:** He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Leader: Chi and Rho are the first two letters of the Greek word "CHRISTOS," that is Christ. This is one of the most ancient of Christian symbols. The word "Chrismon," when first used, specifically referred to the Chi-Rho of Christ's monogram. This Chi-Rho is mounted on a sun globe, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World, come to enlighten every person.

## The Ιχθυσ Fish

**John 11:25-27**

**Reader 2:** Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Leader: The first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" (*Iesous Christous Theou 'Uiou Soter*) form the Greek word for fish, "ICHTHUS."

## Other Fish

Leader: The fish is a symbol of abundance and faith as observed in the Biblical story of fishes and loaves. There are also several Biblical references as Christ and his disciples being "fishers of men." Here, humankind is represented as the transformational fish and the ocean is a symbol of the abyss of sin in which humanity finds itself.

## Holy Spirit Dove

**Mark 1:9-11; John 14:15-17**

**Reader 1:** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Reader 2:** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

Leader: The dove descending represents the presence of the Holy Spirit, which came upon Jesus at his baptism, and then is given to Christians everywhere as the real presence of Christ.

# Worship Script

Sunday, December 4, 2016

## The Chrismon Prayer (In Unison)

**Almighty God, whose glory and majesty glow through the symbols of Christ, may these Chrismons ever remind us of your love entering our lives. May these gifts we have hung upon the tree become the gifts of your comfort and joy we share with others. So may we sing of redemption's happy dawn, for Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem, through the heaven-born Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn** "View the Present through the Promise" W&S #3048

**Prayer** Please lift up your prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

**Lord's Prayer** *Please join in the version found in the UMH on p. 895.*

**Prayer Response** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" FWS # 2193

## Offering of Ourselves and Offertory

**Response** "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (3 times) UMH # 207

## COMMUNION: SYMBOL OF GOD'S FELLOWSHIP WITH US

We have heard the words of scripture read, songs have been sung, and signs and symbols of our faith have been placed upon the tree. Now watch with the eyes and heart of faith as these gifts of the bread and the cup are offered in silence.

Our lives like the grain,

**Scattered and grown for the cutting,**

Ground and kneaded into one body --

**Behold the Bread, Behold our Life.**

Our hope like fruit on the vine ripens,

**Though crushed and mingled with pain,**

In suffering God's love flows free --

**Behold the Cup, Behold our Salvation.**



**Communion Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv. 1-3 # 234

*This is the Lord's Table. All who wish to receive this means of God's grace are invited to come forward.*

**Music for Reflection  
Benediction**

Olga Aynvarg