

**St Paul's  
UCC**

**Henderson  
MN**

**January  
1st,  
2023**



**Organ Prelude**

**Ringling of  
the Bell**

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: We will be glad and rejoice in it.**

Leader: This is the year that the Lord has begun.

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

**People: They are new every morning.**

Leader: The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to those who seek him.

**All: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**

# **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #87**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers!  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising,  
And soon he will draw nigh;  
Up! pray, and watch, and wrestle!  
At midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning;  
Replenish them with oil;  
Look now for your salvation,  
The end of sin and toil.

The watchers on the mountain  
Proclaim the Bridegroom near,  
Go meet him as he cometh,  
With alleluias clear.

Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption,  
And ever be with thee! Amen.

## **\*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)**

Jesus, we have just celebrated your birth surrounded by family and friends. We come once again into the church to celebrate your birth as a community of faith. We pray this hour that you move your Spirit in a powerful way among us. Lord, we open our hearts to you, just as in the past we have opened presents — with joy and with a true sense of expectation. Amen.



Prayer  
of confession

# *Gloria Patri*

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.***



*Welcome  
&  
Announcements*



## **SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3: 1 - 12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,

“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

# THE SERMON



**Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus #79**

Come Thou long expected Jesus

Born to set Thy people free

From our fears and

sins release us

Let us find our rest in Thee

Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the Earth, Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a Child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now the gracious kingdom bring

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne



# **Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

# Cares Chorus

*I cast all of my cares upon you.  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And any time I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all of my cares upon you.*



# Invitation

## Offertory Music

OFFERING  
WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD



# *Doxology*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.***

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

God of unending grace, although there are times in our lives when we question why, and when we wander from our faith, we still are grateful for this gift of life. We now pray that what we give will make this world better.

# **“Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart” #156**

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!  
Your festal banner  
wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.  
Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and  
snow crowned age,  
strong men and maidens meek,  
raise high your free,  
exultanting song,  
God's wondrous praises speak.

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as ye go;  
from youth to age,  
by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe  
Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.



Praise him who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore,  
the Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
one God forevermore.

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

A lit candle with a bright flame is positioned in the center of the frame. The background is dark, featuring a large, glowing bokeh light source in the upper right quadrant and several smaller, out-of-focus bokeh lights scattered throughout. The text "Benediction & Blessing" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the candle's flame.

*Benediction & Blessing*