

## Send Us

Prelude

Open in Reflective Silence (Quotes and questions for guided reflection found on the back.)

Opening Litany (adapted from Psalm 98)

Send us, O Lord, that we may make a joyful noise to you. **Send us, O God.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it. **Send us, O God.**

The world and those who live in it. **Send us, O God.**

Let the floods clap their hands. **Send us, O God.**

And let the hills sing together for joy! **Send us, O God.**

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth. **God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW # 244

Prayer

**By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By the word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in the advent of Christ, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW # 257 (st. 2)

Reading Luke 1:1-26

Reflection

Hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" ELW # 256

Prayer

God for whom we wait, you come to us, in water and word, in broken bread and wine. Shine your light in the darkness and prepare the way forward for your people. For those who are sick...For those who are grieving...For those who are displaced... For those who are tired...And for others who are in need of your care...

**Shine your light in the darkness and prepare the way forward for your people. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray. Our Father...**

Hymn "Joy to the World" ELW # 267

Silent Reflection

Postlude

## Reflective Quotes/Questions

*“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. -Hebrews 1:1-2*

*“...To make things very clear, God long spoke ‘by the prophets,’ people of many sorts in different circumstances. Prophets could not have been more clear ‘at many times and in many ways,’ and still people wandered and ‘tried’ their own ways. The manger in the Gospel story, whose purpose we interpret and celebrate in the Advent season, ‘spoke’ of a new beginning, a ‘way’ to make more clear than the words of the prophets had done, that God was not going to stop trying to break through.” -Moving Toward the Manger: Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner, Martin E. Marty, 2017*

*“We tell ourselves that wilderness preaching is what we do because we know, in theory, that is exactly where God’s people are-crying out from the margins where racism, oppression, and discrimination have excommunicated them. Crying out from behind the borders where profiling and bigotry have ejected them. Crying out from the confines of silence where sexual harassment and sexual violence have expelled them. We know, in theory, that the desert is where divinity shows up. But we know even more, by experience, that it’s a lonely place to be. We know, deeply, that it is also the place where we will likely utter Jesus’ own words, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ We know, fearfully, that the wilderness is also the place where abandonment takes root in our hearts and isolation takes over our souls. No wonder we have to convince ourselves that, ‘Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain’ (Isaiah 40:4) hopefully without our help.” Dear Working Preacher Karoline Lewis, December 3, 2017*

Read the text for this evening. What might God be up to in this text?

Where might God be holding your tongue like Zechariah?

Who has been a prophetic voice in your life?

What wildernesses are in need of the Word?

In this season of Advent where might God be sending you?