

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Day, December 31, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

***God Calls Us to Worship Him:** Responsive Reading of Deuteronomy 10:12-14

Pastor: And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you?

Congregation: To fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Pastor: And to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good.

All: Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

*** We Sing in Response:** #218 Red Hymnal "*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*"

* We Seek God's Presence in Prayer

We Confess Our Sins Together : Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. – *From Reformed Resources on Monergism*

We Pray Silent Prayers of Confession

God Assures Us We Are Forgiven: Isaiah 1:18

*** We Sing In Response to God's Forgiveness:** #187 Black Hymnal "*Before the Throne of God Above*"

*** We Confess Our Faith Together:** Westminster Confession of Faith 2.1

Pastor: *Who is the one living and true God?*

Congregation: There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory, most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal most just and terrible in His judgments; hating all sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty.

We Read From God's Word: Matthew 3

We Pray For The Congregation and Community

We Memorize God's Word: Hebrews 1:14— Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

We Present Our Tithes & Offerings In Worship

We Worship Through the Music of Offertory

* **We Sing the Doxology:** #731 Red Hymnal "*Doxology*"

* **We Give Thanks to the Lord**

* **We Sing In Preparation for the Word:** #368 Black Hymnal "*Speak, O Lord*"

There is no Children's Worship today.

Pastor Reads the Sermon Text: Malachi 2:17-3:5

Pastor Preaches God's Word: "*Behold, the Messenger of the Covenant is Coming*"

- Pastor Wes James

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

* **We Sing In Response to the Word:** #196 Red Hymnal "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*"

* **The Lord Sends Us Out (Benediction)**

Sermon Outline
Malachi 2:17-3:5
“Behold, the Messenger of the Covenant is Coming”
12-31-23

Proposition: The messenger of the covenant comes to prepare and purify God’s people in the things that bring true pleasure to the Lord.

Main Point One: The Messenger’s Preparation

Sub Point One: Poetic Parallelism... “who” is “the messenger” and “who” is “coming?”

Sub Point Two: The Lord’s Appearance

Sub Point Three: The Question... “who can endure his coming... who can stand?”

Main Point Two: The Messenger’s Purification

Sub Point One: The Analogy... “refiner’s fire” or “fuller’s soap”

Sub Point Two: The Sons of Levi

Sub Point Three: Their Offerings

Main Point Three: The Lord’s Pleasure

Sub Point One: The Distinction

Sub Point Two: The “Days of Old”

Main Point Four: The Lord’s Judgment

Sub Point One: Following Purification

Sub Point Two: The Lord’s Witness

Sub Point Three: The People’s Condition... “no fear of the Lord.”