Call to worship (Psalm 146:6-10)

ONE: The Lord is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

ALL: Our God remains faithful forever.

ONE: upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

ALL: The Lord sets prisoners free,

ONE: The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,

ALL: the Lord loves the righteous.

ONE: The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the orphan and the widow,

ALL: God frustrates the ways of the wicked.

ONE: The Lord reigns forever, our God for all generations.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Suggested hymns

“Bless’ by the God of Israel” Hymnal: A Worship Book #174
“Come, thou long-expected Jesus” Hymnal: A Worship Book #178
“I love to tell the story” Hymnal: A Worship Book #398
“I stand amazed in the presence” Hymnal: A Worship Book #528
“My soul proclaims with wonder” Hymnal: A Worship Book #181
“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing” Hymnal: A Worship Book #110
“Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)” Hymnal: A Worship Book #400
**Invitation to the offering**

In a spirit of humbleness, we struggle to share about our own accomplishments. However, may we always be bold to boast about the restoring work of Jesus that is unfolding among us. How is God blessing us today? What do we have to celebrate on this day of how the Lord has provided? What words of affirmation do we have about the ways of Jesus that have taken root and are producing fruit among us? *(Invite sharing of testimonies, if desired.)*

Today, we take up the Advent Offering which empowers the mission and ministries of the Church of the Brethren to share testimonies of love and service. This offering highlights our passion in the Church of the Brethren to live out the holistic peace of Jesus. Gifts received support all Core Ministries of the denomination. Being blessed by God, let us now give so that others may be invited to grow in faith, share testimonies of their own, and, in all things, be blessed.

**Offering prayer**

Generous God,
We praise you for the ways you are restoring all things.
We give thanks for your blessings and celebrate your provision for us.
We offer these gifts as testimonies of our gratitude. May they be used to share fresh expressions of how you are mending, strengthening, and accompanying all who are in need of hope and healing.
In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

**Benediction**

With fresh melodies of testimony ringing in our ears and new glimpses of God’s goodness imprinted on our minds, let us now go, revealing in word and deed how the ministry of Jesus is making all things new.