

**Welcome and Announcements:** December 6, 2020

**Prelude:** *\*Prepare the Way*

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*Prepare the Way* as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Franz Mikael Franzen (1771-1847, adapt. Charles P Price, 1980; alt. 1989. Music: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697, arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930. Used by permission. CCLI #20516410 Size A, Streaming #20516427 Size A.

### **Gathering Around God's Word**

**Advent Candlelighting:** Michael, Jennifer, Rebecca and Morgan Raymond

**Genesis 1:6-8** from *The Message*

God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!"

God made sky. God separated the water under sky from the water above sky.

And there it was: God named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning— Day Two.

**Today we light the candles of Hope and Peace.**

**Prayer:**

Heavenly peace, heavenly justice, divine community -  
We light the candle of hope, bringing hope with us.

We light this candle of peace, its light reminding us of the ways in which we pray for Your kingdom to come into our world. We pray that your peace might be as steady in us as the light before us- flickering, perhaps, but always present, always a warm, guiding light as we walk in our world. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: German Carol, 15<sup>th</sup> century, trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), alt. *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985. Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchenhesang*, Cologne, 1599, arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609. Used by permission. CCLI #20516410 Size A, Streaming #20516427 Size A.

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8

#### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

**40** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

#### **Mark 1:1-81**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Sermon:** Out of the Wilderness

Sam Zeigler

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Invitation to the Table**

Repent and return to God; The realm of heaven is at hand.

*Thanks be to God.*

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...

...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. Amen.

## **Words of Institution**

**Communion Meditation:** During the music, receive the gifts of bread and wine.

*The gifts of God for the people of God.*

Communion Meditation: *\*Heavenly Gift* – Juliet Calkins

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### **Prayer after Communion –**

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their words that call us back to right relationship with one another. Give us hearts to forgive others as we want to be forgiven ourselves. At this table, fill us with the peace of Jesus Christ, a peace that passes beyond any human understanding. Amen.

### **Response: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.*

*Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;*

*With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

*Refrain:*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.* As in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

### **SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD’S WORD IN THE WORLD**

#### **Closing Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4. At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, as in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: From Liturgy of St. James. 4<sup>th</sup> Century, trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864. Music: French carol, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission. CCLI #20516410 Size A, Streaming #20516427 Size A.

### **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** \**Overture from "Unto Us A Child is Born," Cantata No. 147* – J.S. Bach

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