

DECEMBER 13, 2020
9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*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. (Refrain)
REFRAIN: Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. (Refrain)*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him. (Refrain)*

Joy to the World

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer & Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Gray 625

* Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:3

* Song of Praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Gray 329

* God's Greeting

Lighting of Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign
of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

**We are preparing for the full coming
of God's Kingdom:**

Isaiah 2:4; Isaiah 11:6; Isaiah 35:1-2a
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

O God, you give us your good news
and call us into a new covenant relationship with you.
Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let the valleys be lifted up!

**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,
and lift from us depressions and worry.**

Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the mountains be leveled off!

**End our pride and take away our arrogance:
save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**

Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the crooked be made straight!

**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the rough be made smooth!

**Help us grow in understanding,
and give us wisdom to discern
that which is good and true.**

Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.
Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**Redeem your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**

Keep us humble and faithful.
Save us and sanctify us, O God.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon	Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p. 770)	
God's Will for Our Lives	Titus 3:1-11 (p. 1159)	
* Song of Gratitude	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i> (Children age 3-grade 3 are invited to go forward for Children's Message during last verse.)	Gray 341

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message	
Prayer for Illumination	
Scripture	Isaiah 35 (p. 695)
Sermon	The Desert
Prayer	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Song of Response	<i>Fear Not, Rejoice and Be Glad</i>	Gray 201
Prayers of the People		

SENDING

* Call to Discipleship	2 Peter 3:13-15 (in unison) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.	
* Benediction		
* Doxology	<i>Praise and Thanksgiving</i>	Gray 631
* Postlude	<i>Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying</i>	
* <i>Please stand, if able</i>		

Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates as you exit the sanctuary.
Weekly Offering: Wycliffe Bible Translators