

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Prelude *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord* Telemann

Call to Worship

One: We are entering the time of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in our world, in our community, and in our lives that we need to prepare for it. We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born. Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come. Today we hear the voice in the wilderness that calls out,

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

One: God is going to lift up the valleys and bring down the mountains,

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

One: God is going to do something new in our world, our church, and our lives,

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

One: The Glory of God will be revealed to all. Let us prepare for God to do something new. Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Candles Phil, Joanna, and Maybry Shaver

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Today we remember the prophets who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, a liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the holy, a new name for God.

All: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring us surprising new visions of hope, challenge us to think outside the box, and show us a future we never anticipated.

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be but is not yet.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

* **Gathering Song** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* #82

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we desire our own way. We desire to forge ahead without waiting for your guidance. We have defined peace to be our own happiness, and have forgotten that peace includes the well-being of all people, especially the poor and oppressed. Forgive us when we have sought our own way, on our own terms, and have forgotten all of your people. Grant us the wisdom and insight to slow

down, welcome the stranger into our lives, seek out the poor and the oppressed, and speak up for justice. In the name of Christ, who is coming to us in a new way, we pray. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Assurance**

***Gloria Patri** # 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**
Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

Life in Our Church Community

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Isaiah 40:1-11 page 667

Psalm Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 page 543

Epistle 2 Peter 3:8-15a page 238

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* Mary Bringle

New Testament Mark 1:1-8 page 34

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Prepare the Way!* Rev. Terry Epling

~Responding to God's Word~

Ordination and Installation of Elders

Presentation by the Session

*Affirmation of Faith

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. [The Apostles Creed]

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination and Laying On of Hands

Declaration of Ordination and Welcome

*Hymn *Take My Life* #697

Invitation to Give

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *Come, Thou Almighty King* Stellhorn

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* # 606

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication of Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

~Going Forth to Serve~

***Closing Hymn** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* #516

*Benediction

***Postlude** *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful* Hofland

*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.