

## ~Gathering the Family of God~

## The Peal of Our Church Bell

## Welcome

## Prelude

**Choral Call to Worship**     *Raise a Song of Gladness*

## Call to Worship

One: 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 new something new in our world and in 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

One: On this second Sunday of Advent we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place. With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness we cry,

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.**

\* **Gathering Song**     *O Come, All Ye Faithful*     #133

## \* 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, and seek out the poor and the oppressed and speak up for justice. In the name of Christ, who is coming unto us in a new way, we pray. Amen.

## \*Silent Confession

## \*Words of Assurance

One: Friends, hear the Good News! Jesus Christ, whose coming was promised long ago by the prophets, has been declared to be the Son of God by rising from the dead. He has the power to save us from our sins and to send us out in his name to share grace and peace with all people. Therefore, we can declare with confidence:

**All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## \*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.

## ~Hearing God's Word~

## God's Word for Little Ears

## Prayer for Understanding God's Word

**Old Testament**     Isaiah 11:1-10     page 640

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

**Psalm**     Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19     page 533

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

**Anthem**     *O come O Come Emmanuel*     arr. by Dennis & Nan Allen

Soloist: Brittney Moleski & Riley Kurre

**Epistle**     Romans 15:4-13     page 163

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

**New Testament**     Matthew 23:1-12     page 25

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

**Message**     *Prepare the Way*     Rev. Terry Epling

## ~Responding to God's Word~

## \*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]

\*Hymn     *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*     #96

**Mission Moment**     The Christmas Joy Offering

## Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

## Giving of our Tithes and Offerings &amp; Friendship Pad

*Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad. You may also share any joys or concerns on the cards in the pews. Place them in the offering plate for inclusion in the prayers of the people.*

## Offertory

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow  
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.*

# 606

**Prayer of Dedication of Gifts**

**The Lord's Supper**

**Invitation and Great Thanksgiving  
Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion (unison)**

**Thank you, Lord, that you come to us in the ordinary stuff of this world to nurture us with your presence. Now may we live in unity, watching for your coming among us for that we may praise you in all we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Invitation to Prayer**

The Outreach Committee

**Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer**

**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 God~**

**Life in Our Church Community**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

#516

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

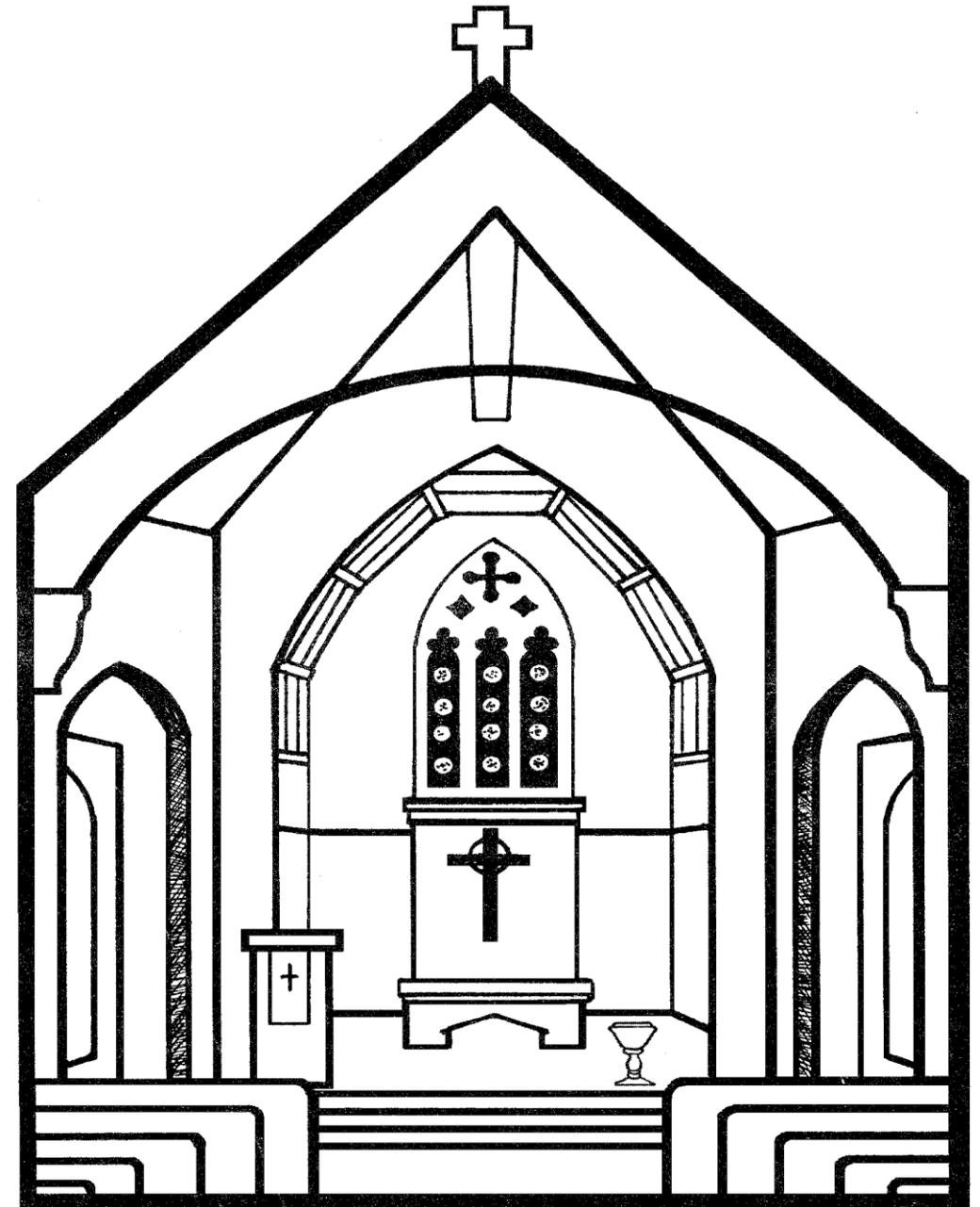
*The Sussex Carol*

Traditional English

**\*Postlude**

\*Please stand, if you are able.

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



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI