

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

Music to Prepare for Worship: "On Jordan's Bank" (#20)

Invitation to Worship:

One: We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's gift to our world:

All: that the fearful might have hope,

One: that the distressed could receive peace,

All: that the down-hearted will know joy,

One: and that the lonely would experience love.

All: We prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ in Bethlehem long ago and in our world and our lives today.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1, based on VU #1)

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
we wait in hope that all our world be well,
we mourn in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Lighting the First Advent Candle: The Candle of Hope

Prayer:

To the One who gives us Hope, thank you for inviting us to this time of waiting. Help us to: open our eyes so we can see your light, open our ears so we can hear your words of hope, open our minds so we can understand you, open our hearts so we can receive your love. Come, long expected Jesus, we are waiting for you! Amen.

Welcome and The Life and Ministry of Our Church

Musical Offering: "People Look East"

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Psalm 42

Sermon: "Living Into Hope."

Hymn: "There's A Voice in the Wilderness" #18
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- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!**
- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.**
- 3 But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.**

**4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!**

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Call to Prayer: (We join in a spirit of prayer with the singing bowl)

Prayers of Thanksgiving & for Healing and Transformation

The Lord's Prayer:

**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
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever,
and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Offer our Gifts:

Minute for Mission: Love Bags or Operation Come Home, Harvest
House and Lanark County Interval House.

Song of Dedication: "In The Bleak Mid-Winter" (vs. 4) **#55**

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**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him - give my heart. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH IN SERVICE

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" **#2**

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**1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Commissioning and Benediction

Departing Song: "Prepare the Way" (Sung 2x) **#10**

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**Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord!**

Music To Inspire Us As We Go: "Lo, He Comes with Clouds
Descending" (#25)