

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Sunday, December 3, 2023
Advent I - Hope

Welcoming

Mission & Service Birthday/Anniversary Recognition

Happy birthday to you,
to Jesus be true,
May God's gracious blessings
rest always with you.

Announcements

Centring Music Come, Emmanuel *Don Besig & Nancy Price*

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

On this first Sunday in Advent, we light this candle and name it Hope. As we light this candle, we remember our commitment to bring hope to all through our love and caring as disciples of Christ.

**O God, come, travel with us
as we prepare the way for Advent Hope.**

Choral Response **Prepare the Way of the Lord**
(Voices United 10)

*Words: Isaiah 40:3; adapt. Michael Burkhardt 1990; Music: Michael Burkhardt 1990
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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!

Hymn

Come All You People (More Voices 2)

*Words: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe; English Paraphrase: I-to Loh
Music: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe, notated by I-to Loh; Arrangement: John L. Bell, 1995
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Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord. (Repeat)

Advent Prayer

A Time to Wonder Advent in a Box

Scripture Reading

Mark 13: 24-33

Choral Response **I Know Your Word (More Voices 108)**

*Words: Psalm 119:105, adapted by Simeí Monteiro; English trans.
Simeí Monteiro and Joan Sutton; Music: Simeí Monteiro
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I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.

Reflection "Prepare the Way For Hope"

Hymn of the Day **People Look East**
(Voices United 9, vs. 1, 3 & 5)

*Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928; Music: French folk melody, harm; Martin Fallas Shaw 1928
Words © David Higham Associates; Harmony © Oxford University Press 1928
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1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

The Holy Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Liturgy

Choral Response **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
(Voices United 1, v. 1)

Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca 9th century; trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al.

Music: 15th century plainsong melody; arr. by Healey Willan 1880 – 1968

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**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Liturgy

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering Jesus at Table

Choral Response **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
(Voices United 1, v. 2)

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Liturgy

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ,

the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,

the Cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together

for our strengthening in the faith,

and for the sake of the world.

Sharing of the Gifts

Chime Solo – Eat This Bread

Words: Robert J. Batastini and the Taizé community, Music: Jacques Berthier

Communion Prayer

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Choral Response **Come Touch Our Hearts**

(More Voices 12, v. 1)

Words and music: Gordon Light, 2002; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002

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- 1 Come touch our hearts
That we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough
to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Offering Prayer

When we reach out in love and understanding to others,

Hope is your gift to us.

When we answer your Gospel in our giving,

Hope is your gift to us.

When we pledge ourselves to your direction,

Hope is your gift to us.

Joys and Concerns

The Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Parting Hymn **There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

(Voices United 18, vs. 1, 2 & 4)

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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.
- 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!

Benediction

Postlude He Shall Feed My Flock

G.F. Handel

Arranged by Edward Broughton from 'The Messiah'

Worship Leaders – Pastor Beth Parsons

Music Leader – Sharon Prindle-Collins

Chime Solo – Margaret Chambers

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Greeters – Carol-Ann and David Staples

Scripture Reading – Joanne Thomas

Advent Prayer – Marcia Goodwin

Spirit Kids Program – Leslie Moffat

Communion Servers – Stephen Godfrey, Leanne Isomaa,

Melissa Nagy, Bill Samis and Karen Strawn Samis

Offering Invitation and Prayer – Peggy Dayton

Technical Support – Louise Johnston and Jayda Perry

Fellowship Time – Andy and the Queens of Caffeine