

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 5, 2021

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

“God, the Father Everlasting”
Randy Benfield, organ

J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

MOMENT FOR CPC

Earth Care

CJ Herman

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Malachi 3:1)*

Janet Olson

Leader: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,

People: and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

Leader: The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight —

People: Indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord!

People: Let us worship the One who is coming!

* HYMN

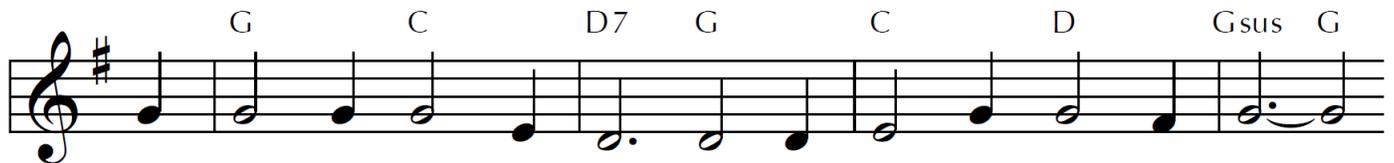
“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

No. 106
Glory to God

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



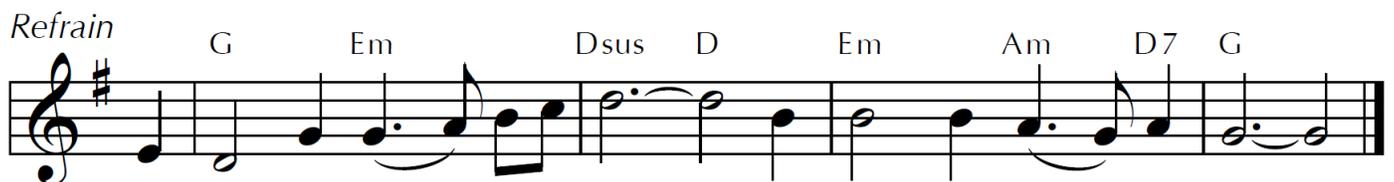
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Janet Olson

Leader: God calls us to "prepare the way of the Lord" and in order to do so we are to "make his paths straight." While we do strive to do just these things, we often find curves and bumps in the road along the way. Let us confess our sin together so that God can help us continue to prepare the way going forward.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Luke 1:75 and Malachi 3:2)*

Holy and righteous God, far too often we are a far cry from the holiness you invite us into. And often we fail to live up to your righteous standards for how we are called to live. Refine us with your righteous refiner's fire to remove all our sinful impulses and impurities. Cleanse us with the fullers' soap to make us pure and holy once again. Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from James 5:15-16)*

Leader: We are not perfect, but we do not need to be. God in Christ is! And God in Christ has taken care of us and this world once again: "Every valley shall be filled ... and the rough ways made smooth." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

"Gloria Patri"

Traditional

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Laura and Lillian Janik

UNISON ADVENT PRAYER

God of love, may your Spirit provoke us to actions of love during this period of waiting. As the Son demonstrated what love requires—submission, sacrifice, and sanctification—may we emulate his ways so that the world may know of your great love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM

"Carol of the Advent"

Dietterich

Sanctuary Choir
(as recorded on December 7, 2014)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

SERMON

Advent Infrastructure

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

SONG

“Remembrance”

Davenport & Hastings

Laura Leek and Jenny DeVries, vocalists

I take the bread of life, broken for all my sin
Your body crucified to make me whole again
I will recall the cup poured out in sacrifice
To trade this sinner's end for Your new covenant
Hallelujah! I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah! Your promise I won't forget

I'll walk salvation's road with fear and trembling
Your way borne as my own as Christ is formed in me
Hallelujah! I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah! Your promise I won't forget

If ever I should lose my way, if ever I deny Your grace
Remind me of the price You paid
Hallelujah! I'll live in remembrance

You've been so, so good to me. You've been so, so good to me,
Oh, to think where I would be if not for You, if not for You

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)

GOD'S RELENTLESS INVITATION

Pastor: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

People: We open our hearts to you, O God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath.

People: To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation – the tiny ones, the scaly ones, the human ones, the leafy ones – all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your Sacred hand. In your love for us, you claim us – individually and as a whole – as your beloveds. You will us for life abundant and you invite us into co-working with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide.

Like those who turned on Jesus when things became too difficult, we too are tempted to desert those most vulnerable.

But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.

This relentless invitation of yours that entices with freedom and joy and forgiveness is such a threat to empire that it still attempts to crucify every incarnation of your love today. And so, we are reminded of the example given to us in the person of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around the table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He did the same with the cup after the supper saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

And so in remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one in our commitment to the liberation of all your creatures and creations. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kingdom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Wherever you are, in the Sanctuary or at home, partake of the bread and the cup)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, we rejoice that you claim us and behold us. We celebrate being your people and the ability to worship you. Thank you for all our blessings and freedoms that allow us to do just that. Enable us to fully and freely give our all to your glory today and tomorrow and forevermore.

God of love, your compassion for us still surprises us from time to time. It probably shouldn't because it's never changed, but it does. The undistracted attention that you show us and the title of beloved that you bestow upon us feel undeserved and unearned. Nonetheless, help us as we bask in their warmth once again today.

God of justice, we also know that much of what we do gets in the way of others feeling that warmth. Help us recognize and work to eliminate the ways in which we participate in larger unhealthy systems of power in which we find ourselves.

Enable us to see the world more and more through your eyes with clarity of heart and holiness of mind. Allow us to share in your good news for all.

God of now, we pray for all those who need to feel our prayers on this day. We pray for those who are sick needing strength and endurance. We pray for those who are confused needing guidance and direction. We pray for those who are hurt needing your soothing and healing touch. We pray for those who are experiencing loss needing the comfort and peace that only you can provide. We lift up to you those you places in our hearts and minds at this time ...

And now hear us as we boldly pray that great prayer of trust that you taught us.

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.

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore,
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us together,
And He it is who sends us apart, to be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in D minor"

J.S. Bach

*Please stand if you are able.

Liturgy by Brian Coulter © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

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Audio/Video: Steve Parker and Bruce MacLean

Contemporary Worship Team:

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Guitar: Paul Zeman

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass: Jay Leek