



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2023

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Robert J. Hughes

15th century French processional

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 40:1-5)

Suzan Wurz

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people!

People: We welcome God's tender words to us today.

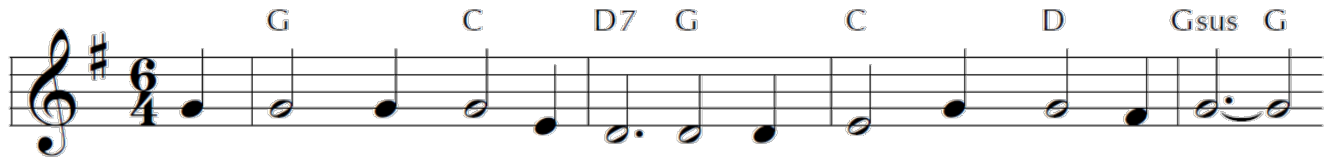
Leader: Prepare the way for your God!

People: We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Leader: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

People: Thanks be to God for this good news!

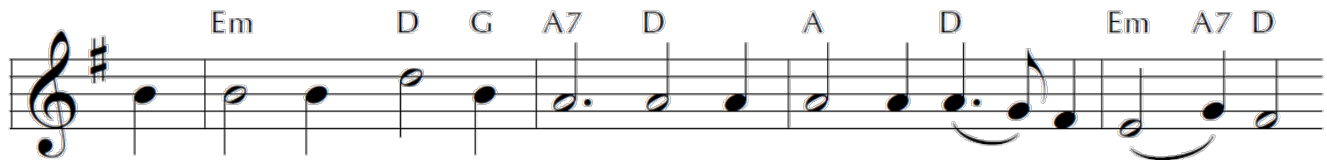
“Prepare the Way, O Zion”



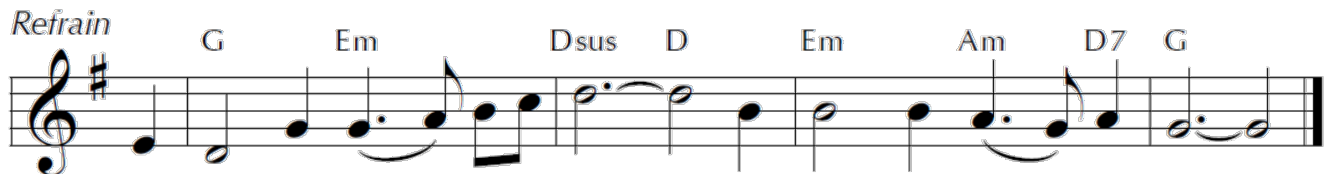
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



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.

CONFESSON AND PARDON

Suzan Wurz

Leader: God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

All: Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts.

Silence

Leader: Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE "Glory Be to the Father (*Gloria Patri*)"

No. 581
Glory to God



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the



Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin-ning, is



now, and e - ver shall be, world with - out



end. A - men, A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Parker Family

ADVENT PRAYER

All: Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's peace. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 207.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



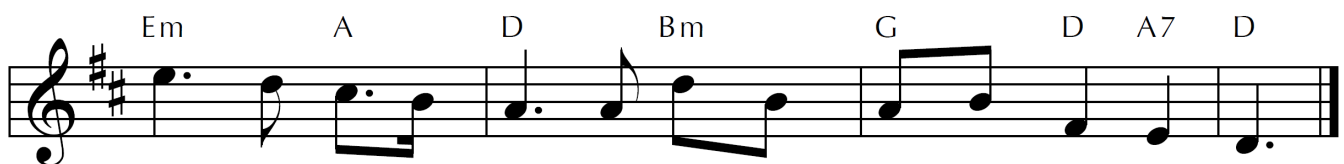
hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of hate
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e - mies



fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's
shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of



grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.
peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

SERMON

Are We There Yet?

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

* SONG

“Even So, Come”

Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates,
& Jason Ingram

All of creation, all of the earth, make straight a highway,
A path for the Lord. Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint

Let every nation shout of Your fame. Jesus is coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we’ll be a Church ready for You

Every heart longing for our King, we sing

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

There will be justice, all will be new

Your name forever, faithful and true

Jesus is coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we’ll be a Church ready for You

Every heart longing for our King, we sing

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

So we wait. We wait for You. God, we wait. You’re coming soon.

So we wait. We wait for You. God, we wait. You’re coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom, we’ll be a Church ready for You

Every heart longing for our King, we sing

Like a bride waiting for her groom,

We’ll be a Church ready for You

Every heart longing for our King, we sing

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

Even so come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, the one who comes, and the one with the power to break through our darkness and despair, the one who risks being born into a broken world, we give you thanks for the hope this Advent provides. Help us repent and return to you to prepare our hearts to receive Christ this Christmas. Help us straighten our paths, fill our valleys, and make our rough places smooth. Help us turn to you in prayer for comfort and strength.

Almighty God, who taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere, hear us as we pray now for others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

In your mercy, Creator God, hear our prayers for the hurting; for innocent civilians trapped in the horrors of war; for those longing for safety and shelter; for the sick and wounded; for refugees living in exile, for the poor and the oppressed.

In your mercy, Loving God, hear our prayers for those in our community who are in need of more support; for those who feel alienated or estranged; for those navigating life alone and lonely; for those who feel exhausted and weak; for those who feel overwhelmed and suffer in silence.

In your mercy, Communal God, hear our prayers for our friends and family members; for those who are sick and their caregivers; for those who are grieving and missing loved ones during the holidays; for those who are distracted and frazzled; for those who cannot hear the whisper of your angels' wings amidst the busy chaos of their lives.

As the Body of Christ and a community of faith we lift these prayers up to you, Holy God. Comfort your people. Strengthen us with your love. May our faith build bridges of welcome to all who are wandering this Advent.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us saying,

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)

* SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

John Mason Neale,
arr Steve Cook & Bob Kauflin

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come O come true prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father's side
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall by His Word our darkness dispel

O Come Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayers of the People by Teri McDowell Ott © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023
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Audio/Video: Michael Gray and Noor Bitar

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Organist: Rick Schlosser

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Guitar: Michael Schwab

Bass: Merlyn van Regenmorter

Vocalists: Tara Calderon and Laura Leek



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