

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent

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Handbell Choir Preludes

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

“How Silently How Silently”

Chiming of the Hour

Words of Welcome

**\*Call to Worship**

LEADER: Come! Wanderers, seekers, pilgrims on the journey-  
there is a place prepared for you.

**ALL: We gather from places far and near- strangers, yet siblings within  
the household of God**

LEADER: Come! There is food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place- the  
fruit of creation for the children of the Creator.

**ALL: We gather around the pulpit, font and table, to feast on the Word that  
Nurtures, to drink deeply from the well of grace**

Leader: Come! Open your hearts that you might glimpse into the Glory of the  
Almighty

**ALL: We gather in the Sacred name of the Triune God to behold Christ,  
the Light of the World! AMEN**

**\*The Processional Hymn**

**“Creator of the Stars of Night”- CONDITOR ALME**



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

**Handbell Anthems:**

We Three Kings

Go Tell it On the Mountain

## The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

**Reader One:** “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God’s house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

**Reader One:** The Psalmist says “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!”

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God’s promise.

### \*Song of Response

Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for wa-ter man-y still  
8  
thirst. Make us your bread, bro-ken for oth-ers. shared un-til ALL are fed  
17  
Christ! Be our Light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the dark - ness. Christ!  
26  
Be our Light! Shine in your church, gath-erd to - day!

### \*The Pastoral Prayer

### \*The Lord’s Prayer

### Choral Anthem

“Waiting for the Promise”- Lloyd Larson

## First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, <sup>7a</sup> "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers; the flower fades, <sup>7b</sup> [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers; the flower fades,]] <sup>7c</sup> but the word of our God will stand forever.

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple;  
2 For the he - rald's voice is cry - ing  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed,  
tell of peace!" so says our God.  
in the de - sert far and near,  
and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
cal - ling us to true re - pen - tance  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,  
mour - ning un - der sor - row's load.  
since the King - dom now is here.  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign!

To God's peo - ple now pro - claim  
Oh, that war - ning cry o - bey!  
For the glo - ry of the Lord

that God's par - don waits for them!  
Now pre - pare for God a way!  
now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver;  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him,  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

God will reign in peace for - e - ver!  
and the hills bow down to greet him!  
that God's word is ne - ver bro - ken.

## The Second Reading: Jerimiah 23: 5-6

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

## Choral Anthem

“Worship the Light”- David Catherwood

## \*Hymn

UMH 209

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”  
(MEREL’S TUNE)

## Third Reading: Canticle of Zechariah (Response repeated 3x each)

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your  
sight: the deep - est night is clear as the day light.

**R**  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has come to set the chosen people free  
**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Savior from the house of David.**  
Through the holy prophets, God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us;  
**to show mercy to our forebears and to remember the holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
**to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship without fear,  
holy and righteous in the Lord’s sight, all the days of our life! R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for your will go before the LORD to prepare the way,

**to give God’s people knowledge of their salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**R**

**Fourth Reading: Haggai 2: 6-9**

<sup>6</sup>For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, <sup>7</sup>and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>8</sup>The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>9</sup>The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.”

**Handbell Anthem**

“I Wonder as I Wander”- John Jacob Niles

**Fifth Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6**

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.]]][a]

3 Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.  
4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

# Hymn: Unexpected and Mysterious



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

## Sixth Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [a] 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [b] 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born [c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## ANTHEM

"Bethlehem Wind"- Joseph Martin

## The Seventh Reading:

I The beginning of the good news [a] of Jesus Christ. [b] 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, [c] "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, [d] who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' " 4 so John the baptizer appeared [e] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with [f] water, but he will baptize you with [g] the Holy Spirit." 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. 11 And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; [h] with you I am well pleased." 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news [i] of [j] God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; [k] repent, and believe in the good news." [l]



## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

William C. Dix



*All:* 1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the  
*All:* 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we  
*Choir:* 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Here on  
*All:* 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



scep - ter, his — the throne. Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry — a - lone.  
near — us: Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
sin - ful Flee to you from day — to day.  
Mar - y, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the  
In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's re -  
You with - in — the veil have en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out — of ev - 'ry  
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for - get — his  
deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of all — the  
flesh, our great high priest; Here on earth both priest and



na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."  
prom - ise: "I am with — you ev - er - more?"  
sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

**\*Dismissal With Blessing**

In the lonely places, the wilderness  
Where we stand forlorn, windswept and alone

**Your voice calls out**

**Prepare a way for the Lord**

In the dark places The shadows  
Where we hide our fears Embrace our tears

**Your voice calls out**

**Prepare a way for the Lord**

In the time of preparation, we wait for your Son,  
Christ, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Everlasting of Everlasting.

**Your voice calls out**

**Prepare a way for the Lord**

Go now into the world in anticipation of the coming Christ. Let your light shine through the darkness, ignite the flame in your heart, as well as others that we may live in the love and grace of Christ. Prepare your hearts, for Christ is coming.

**Christ is Coming, Prepare the way of the Lord! AMEN**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Postlude- *Please Remain Seated***

arr. Pietro A. Yon

“Toccata on CREATOR ALME SIDERUM”

*From “Advent”- First Religious Suite for Organ*