

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Arr. Michael D. Costello

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* ADVENT INTROIT (Hymn 88, v. 6)

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

* OPENING SENTENCES (from Isaiah 40)

Abraham Roos

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

A voice cried out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord."

Make a straight highway in the desert for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every hill made low.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

And all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

* HYMN 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!

We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, out of your love for this world, you have sent prophets and messengers calling wayward people back to your ways of justice and kindness. Although you have given us "ears to hear" we often choose to not listen. Forgive us and melt our stubborn wills so that we become eager to listen and follow; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 447)

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

(Pew Bible, O.T. p.667)

ANTHEM

How Lovely Are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words.

* GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-14

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.60)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AT THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG BLESSING

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SERMON

"Holy Housekeeping"

Dr. Butler

"And the crowds asked John, 'What then should we do?'"

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN 96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WINCHESTER NEW

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 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.

OFFERTORY *Gottes Sohn ist kommen* Johann Gottfried Walther

* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* **HYMN 110** “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **DEPARTING MUSIC** *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn* Johann Sebastian Bach
The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship, service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10 a.m.
