



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 15th century French melody

The Call to Worship

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

People: Make God's paths straight.

Leader: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

People: The crooked will be made straight.

Leader: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

People: All will see the salvation of God.

Leader: See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

People: The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Blessed is the Lord,
and blessed are God's people
to whom God sends a savior,
the messiah, who is Christ the Lord.
Blessed is our God, and blessed are God's gifts,
that grace us with forgiveness and every good gift.
Lord, you have come to dwell within us.
Build your temple within our hearts. Amen.**

The Hymn *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
See printed hymn at the end of the bulletin.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle Meredith Thrower family

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.
May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The Scripture Lesson Malachi 3:1-4

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Prepare Ye the Way

Michael Wise

Soloists: Emily Downey, Lynn LaBarre, Todd Minnich,
Sam Cook, Megan O'Brien

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low:
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places shall be made plain:
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.
And the voice said, Cry. What shall I cry?
All flesh is grass,
and the goodliness thereof is as a flower that is in the field.
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast for ever.
O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up into the mountain;
O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings,
lift up thy voice with strength,
and say unto Judah, Behold thy God.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!
 Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
 All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.*



A - men, a - men, a - men.
 Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us.
 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 Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Hymn No. 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
 great David's greater Son!
 Hail in the time appointed,
 his reign on earth begun!
 He comes to break oppression,
 to set the captive free;
 to take away transgression,
 and rule in equity.</p> | <p>2. He comes with succor speedy
 to those who suffer wrong;
 to help the poor and needy,
 and bid the weak be strong;
 to give them songs for sighing,
 their darkness turn to light,
 whose souls, condemned and dying,
 are precious in his sight.</p> |
| <p>3. He shall come down like showers
 upon the fruitful earth;
 love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
 spring in his path to birth.
 Before him, on the mountains,
 shall peace, the herald, go,
 and righteousness, in fountains,
 from hill to valley flow.</p> | <p>4. To him shall prayer unceasing
 and daily vows ascend;
 his kingdom still increasing,
 a kingdom without end.
 The tide of time shall never
 his covenant remove;
 his name shall stand forever;
 that name to us is love.</p> |

The Benediction

The Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

Thomas Helmore, arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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Please welcome substitute organist Michael Simpson to our service today.
Michael is a retired church musician. He served three churches in Richmond during a career of more than 50 years. He was also accompanist and assistant director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus.

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.*

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

The Coming Messenger

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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Prepare the Way, O Zion

1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your
 2. He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he
 3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your

Christ is draw - ing near! Let
 comes from heav'n a - bove. His
 Sa - vior's rule em - brace. His

ev - ery hill and val - ley a
 rule is peace and free - dom, and
 tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro -

lev - el way ap - pear. Greet
 jus - tice, truth, and love. Lift
 claim in ev - ery place. All

One who comes in glo - ry, fore -
 high lands your praise re - sound - ing, for
 will bow be - fore him, their

told grace in sa - cred sto - ry. Oh,
 and joy a - bound - ing. Oh,
 voic - es will a - dore him. Oh,

blest is Christ that came in
 blest is Christ that came in
 blest is Christ that came in

God's most ho - ly name.
 God's most ho - ly name.
 God's most hol - ly name.