



**\*THE PEACE**

Minister: As a forgiven people, let us share Christ's peace with one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Come, O come Emmanuel to the vast wasteland of our minds, to the immense emptiness of our hearts, to the lost estate of our souls, and have mercy upon us. Find us in the wilderness where we abide. Comfort and disturb us with the words of one who comes to prepare the way for him who was born for us and in whose name we pray. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Malachi 3:1-5 (p. 889)

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE**

*Song of Zechariah*

Mark Mummert  
(b. 1970)

**Choir: Antiphon**

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the  
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

**Congregation: Antiphon**

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.

**Congregation: Antiphon**

Through your holy prophets,  
you 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 your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship you without fear,  
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

**Congregation: Antiphon**

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

To give God's people knowledge of 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.

**Congregation: Antiphon**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Luke 3:1-6 (p. 60)

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHURCH SCHOOL ANTHEM**

Natalie Sleeth  
(1930-1992)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
come now to earth and with your people dwell,  
the world awaits from heav'n a holy sign,  
O come and show to us the light divine.

For your coming we prepare  
wisdom from on high.  
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair,  
now to us draw nigh.

*After the anthem, children through fifth grade  
may process to the Chapel to meet for the Gathering.*

**SERMON**

Preparers of the Way

Ms. Jarvis

*“He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...”*  
Luke 3:3

**\*HYMN 205**

*All Hail to God's Anointed*

ROCKPORT

**PRAYERS**

Minister: The Lord be with you,  
**People: And with your spirit.**  
Minister: Let us pray. O Lord show thy mercy upon us,  
**People: And grant us thy salvation.**  
Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us,  
**People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*Prayers concluding with 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.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

John Stainer  
(1840-1901)

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,  
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;  
that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*HYMN 6**

*Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending*

HELMSLEY

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)  
Savior of the Nations, Come*

J. S. Bach

**LEADING WORSHIP:** Cynthia A. Jarvis, Brian D. Russo and Austin Crenshaw Shelley

**MUSIC:** Gallery Choir; Daniel Spratlan, Conductor; Ken Lovett, Organist and Julie Bishop, Church School Conductor

**GREETERS:** Elders: Katherine Connelly and Lisa Guyer; Deacons: Amy Violante and Sharyn Walker

**USHERS:** William Chambers, Team #1 Leader; Richard Brown, Carolyn Manwaring, Kevin Raphael, Harry Spaeth and James Spause

**FLOWER GUILD:** Ken Lovett

*Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of  
the loved ones  
of Jean Hardwick.*

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