



MEDITATION

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new.

- Socrates

God has already prepared the way. He is just preparing you.

- anonymous

The best preparation for the future is a well-spent today

- John Dewey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter (*Gustav Holst, music; Christina Rossetti, words*)

UCSJ Men

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Tim Spangler

Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle signifying the light of Christ coming into the world. This Sunday we light the first and second candle knowing that Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Leader:: Prepare the way:

People: To the north, south, east and west.

Leader : Make room for God's work:

People: In our hearts, in our world, in our church, in our relationships.

Leader: Be prepared: like a refiner's fire, God will work to make us more beautiful than gold, more precious than silver

People: Prepare the way. Let us worship God.

PRAYER

Tim Spangler

HYMN*

Prepare the Way of the Lord

(*Isaiah 40:3; Jacques Berthier, music*)

Hymn No. 174

Congregation

All - Sing through melody 3 times

Right side of the church starts the round, sings 4x

Left side of the church joins in (Katy will cue you!) and sing 4x

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
 Righteousness will be his belt
 and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
 The wolf will live with the lamb,
 the leopard will lie down with the goat,
 the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
 and a little child will lead them.
 The cow will feed with the bear,
 their young will lie down together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
 They will neither harm nor destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to
 him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

ANTHEM: Do you Hear What I Hear? (Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne; Arr. Harry Simeone) UCSJ Choir

*Said the night wind to the little lamb,
 "Do you see what I see?
 Way up in the sky, little lamb.
 Do you see what I see?
 A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite,
 With a tail as big as a kite."*

*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
 "Do you hear what I hear?
 Ringing thru the sky, shepherd boy,
 "Do you hear what I hear?
 A song, a song high above the tree with a voice as big as the sea,
 With a voice as big as the sea."*

*Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
 "Do you know what I know?
 In your palace warm, mighty king,
 Do you know what I know?
 A Child, a Child shivers in the cold, let us bring Him silver and gold,
 Let us bring Him silver and gold."*

*Said the king to the people ev'ry where,
 "Listen to what I say:
 Pray for peace, people everywhere!
 Listen to what I say:
 The Child, the Child sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light,
 He will bring us goodness and light."*

A TIME FOR SILENCE

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Melinda Veatch

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—

“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

(German, 16th c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*)

Hymn No. 190

All Verses

Congregation

OFFERING OF OURSELVES

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

LIFTING OUR PRAYERS

Tim Spangler and Pastor Melinda Veatch

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

CLOSING SONG*

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(Charles Coffin; *Trier manuscript, 15thc.*)

Hymn No. 156

Verses 1,2,4, and 5

Congregation

SENDING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on Greensleeves

(*Ralph Vaughan Williams*)

Kim Lundgren, flute; Katy Kristoffersen, piano

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*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

OUR MISSION

- We are a loving and compassionate church family that *respects the dignity and integrity* of each individual.
- We find our joy and meaning through faith in God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- We seek to promote Christian unity and to encourage understanding and cooperation with those from different traditions.
- We seek to foster deeper relationships with God and each other through worship, fellowship, growth and service.

WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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