



December 10, 2023

10:00 am

MEDITATION MUSIC

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear.

Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.

For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

HYMN* *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

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ADVENT WREATH - LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE

Frieda Bostian and Sandi Webster

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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"

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL *Congregation and Handchimes*
(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

GOSPEL* – Mark 1:1-8

CANTATA

Adult Choir

“A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS”

Lani Smith, William Privette

Narrator: Sandy Hancock

A Simple Christmas

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Play for Me, Shepherd

O Little Town of Bethlehem

What Child is this?

Bright New Star

Angels From the Realms of Glory

A Simple Christmas (Reprise)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ 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.

HYMN*

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE*

Congregation and Choir

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.**



Advent Activities

Today

10:00 am - Worship, Adult Choir Cantata, "A Simple Christmas"
11:10 am – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:10 – Joy Gift Dinner – Everyone is welcome!

Dec. 17

10:00 am – Worship
11:10 am - Sunday School

Dec. 24

10:00 am – Worship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
7:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec. 31

10:00 am – Service of Carols
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL