

**Troy Presbyterian Church
Versailles, KY
Service of Word and Sacrament
December 4, 2022**

Chiming the Hour

Musician

Words of Welcome and Announcements

- One: God's vision of peace is a realm where all live together in harmony;
- Many: enemies become friends, fear gives way to understanding.**
- One: God calls us to be this community;
- Many: let us gather together to worship.**

Musical Prelude

Musician

Lighting the Advent Candles

- One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel." Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate. As we light our second Advent candle, we pray for the holy peace of God.
- Many: Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

*Opening Hymn

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

(GTG #106)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kingdom. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

- One: Friends, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is coming.
In Jesus, God reclaims and redeems and restores all of creation.
Through this grace our sins are forgiven.
- Many: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Musical Response

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

(GTG #654)

Prayer of Illumination (*unison*)

Liturgist

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12+

Liturgist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a]

³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

One: Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10+

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.]]^[a]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
 and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 “Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
 and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;^[b]
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,^[c]
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,^[d]
 but it shall be for God’s people;^[e]
 no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return

and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

One: Hear with your hearts the word and wisdom of the Lord.
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Pastor

*Affirmation of Faith "The Nicene Creed" (GTG, pg. 34)

Morning Prayer

Offering of our Lives Liturgist

*Musical Response "*Doxology*" (GTG #606)

*Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer Liturgist

... who taught his disciples to pray by saying: **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.**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Choral Anthem

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

*Closing Hymn "*In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*" (GTG #850)

*Blessing and Charge

One: May the God of peace make you holy and may the power of the Spirit sustain you until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many: **Alleluia!**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Many: **And all people shall see the salvation of our God.**

Congregational Meeting

*Musical Blessing

“Farewell, Good Friends”

(GTG #540)

Service Notes:

Good morning, and welcome to worship at Troy Presbyterian Church! We're glad that you've joined our worship this day, either in-person or live-streamed at home. If you've considered joining the Troy fellowship, please speak to the pastor or one of the ushers for more information. For more about the church, see the website: www.troychurchky.org and/or look for us on Facebook. The office number is 859-873-2373 and the church email address is: troypresbyterian@windstream.net.

For Families with young children (ages birth to 5th grade): activity kits are provided for children. If your children grow restless during worship, parents are welcome to take children to the Nursery and Wee Worship Rooms in the Learning Center.

About the Sacrament: Troy Presbyterian Church practices an open table. The table is the Lord's Table and all believers are welcome to share in the meal. We will celebrate today by the method of intinction. At the appropriate time, please come forward to receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. If you would rather be served in your seat, the elements will be brought to you. For those who wish, there are prepackaged elements available on the tables at the sanctuary entrances. For bulletin sections marked with an asterisk (*), please stand if able.

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Worship Leaders:

Larry Snyder, Liturgist

Hayden P. McNeal, Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Jerry L. Utt, II, Pastor

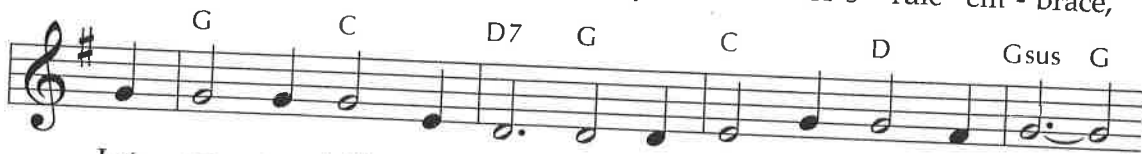
Current COVID protocols:

- Please stay home, do not come to church, if you feel sick, if someone in your household or immediate proximity is sick, or if you are concerned in either case that you or someone else might be sick. We will continue to livestream our services for those who desire to watch from home.
- If you, or members of your party/family start to feel ill, please leave church immediately and seek appropriate medical care.
- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face with your hands. Hand sanitizer as well as soap and water are available throughout all church buildings.
- Respect social distancing of those around you.
- If coughing or sneezing: redirect your face away from other people, and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, crook of your elbow, mask, or other means.
- Vaccination and boosters are strongly recommended.
- Adequate ventilation is recommended as part of layered prevention strategies in indoor spaces--- for this reason sanctuary and outside doors (as able depending on weather) will be kept open during our services to allow for more adequate air flow.
- All members and visitors of the church are encouraged to follow CDC and state/local public health guidelines regarding masking. As of March 20, 2022, Troy Presbyterian Church will no longer require masks be worn inside the church buildings, and will transition to a time of personal choice regarding masking. N95 or KN95 masks are available for free from Troy Church and will be available via an usher when entering the building. Please refer to CDC, state/local public health guidelines, as well as your own medical provider, when determining your personal risk and what layered prevention strategies you and your family choose to take. ***Of note: As COVID-19 is an ever-changing, evolving virus, our church may continue to adjust our policies as we have since March of 2020.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

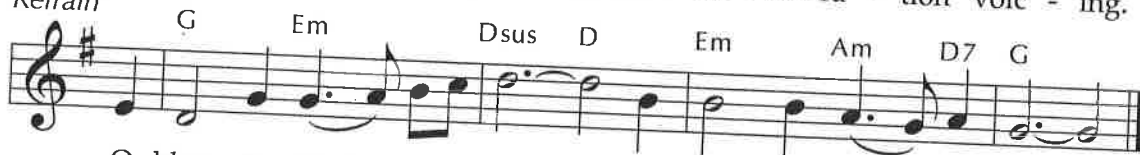


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near." There are triplets in the piano accompaniment on the second and third systems.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL
Irregular

850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un-bound-ed dark - ness, long be - fore the first
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con-stant, firm,
 3 Joy trans-forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your match -
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad A -



light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it worked a
 and sure, faith - ful to your cov-enant prom - ise. Trust - ing
 less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us, Word made
 bra - ham; God of Mir - yam, God of Mo - ses, Fi - ery



won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy, in your
 you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es, sing - ing
 flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior, Friend and
 Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward, lead us



mer - cy, you em-braced us as your own,
 prais - es, long as heart and breath en - dure,
 Sav - ior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
 home - ward, to the love - feast of the Lamb,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Setting this translation of a Chinese hymn to Western plainsong enhances the universal context of the opening stanza. The familiar pattern of creation, covenant, and incarnation in the first three stanzas leads to a far-reaching final stanza that looks both backward and forward.