Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude
“Savior of the Nations, Come” Timothy Shaw

We Address Ourselves to God

Call to Worship
Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness: 
prepare the way of the Lord.
People: Build a highway in the wilderness for our Lord.
Leader: Our rough places will be made smooth.
People: Our crooked places will be made straight.
Leader: All flesh shall see the face of God
All: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Hymn
“Prepare the Way, O Zion” Hymn No. 106

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (The people joining)
God of hope and healing, you straighten the winding paths of our hearts and smooth the places made rough by sin. Forgive us for wandering from your ways and hiding in the shadows of darkness. Draw us toward the graceful glare of your truth and bring to wholeness the good you have begun in us. We ask this in the name of the one whose coming is certain. Amen.

Silent Confessions

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Confession
“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” Hymn No. 105

The Passing of the Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us share that peace with one another.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

We Hear God’s Word

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1-11 Pew Bible, O.T., pg. 667
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 85

“Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love”  Hymn No. 449

Second Reading

Mark 1:1-8  Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 34

Leader:  The Word of the Lord.

People:  Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Wilderness Way”  The Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews

We Respond to God’s Word

Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”  Hymn No. 87

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Bell Anthem  “People, Look East”  Jason Krug

Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve the Lord

Hymn

“One Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”  Hymn No. 96

Benediction

Organ Postlude  “Prepare the Way, O Zion”  Dale Wood

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Worship Leaders:  The Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews, Guest Preacher
The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

Music Ministry:  Bell Choir; Anthony Heinemann, Hymn Leader;
Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries; Travis Evans, Music Associate

Thank you for worshiping with us.

PLEASE NOTE: The days to drop off food for KirkCare and school supplies and food for the Kirkwood School District are now Tuesday and Thursday (no longer Monday and Wednesday) from 9am-12pm.
**ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

* **Zoom Series:** Sundays, December 6, 13 and 20, at 9:30am, Betsy Solomon of the Shepherd’s Center, will continue her series about artwork of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. This week the topic is *The Nativity Story in Painting.*

* **The Men’s Saturday Morning Bible Study Group** meets at 11am on Saturday mornings. Contact Tim Morrison at timothy.lee.morrison@gmail.com to be added to the Zoom invitation list.

* **Advent Bible Study on Zoom, Wednesdays, December 9, and 16 at 10:00a.m.** Join us for this three-week Advent Bible study of the birth narratives of Jesus found in Matthew and Luke. If you would like to receive the Zoom invite for this study, please let Karen know at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, 12/6**

9:30am   Zoom Adult Ed: Betsy Solomon
9:30am   Spiritual Formation - Zoom
11:00am  Live-Streamed Worship Service

**Monday, 12/7**

8:00am   Preschool
11:30am  Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, 12/8**

**No Events**

**Wednesday, 12/9**

10:00am  Advent Study - Zoom
5:30pm   Midweek Advent Worship Service - Live Streamed
7:00pm   Bell Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
7:15 pm  Board of Deacons - Zoom

**Thursday, 12/10**

10:00am  Prayer Time - Sanctuary (reservations required)
7:00 pm  Chancel Octet Rehearsal - Sanctuary

**Friday, 12/11**

8:00am   Preschool

**Saturday, 12/12**

10:00am  Prayer Time - Sanctuary (reservations required)
11:00am  Men's Bible Study - Zoom

**Sunday, 12/13**

Second Sunday in Advent

9:30am  Zoom Adult Ed: Betsy Solomon
11:00am Live-Streamed Worship Service

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A. M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pursuant to the Form of Government G-1.0501, the Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday December 13, 2020 to act on 1) the election of new church officers and 2) approve the 2021 Terms of Call for The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor. This will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom. Information to join the meeting will be sent in advance.

By Order of the Session
Lisa K. Ward
Clerk of Session
If you would like to be on our email list to receive information on the life of the congregation, please email Paula at paulab@kirkwoodpres.org

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1 Prep - are 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 - ry 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.

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 folk tune that spread to Scandinavia.

MUSIC: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
4 Come, hope of unity; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love  449
(Psalm 85)

1 Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love, and let your
   saving grace be near; when we return with open
   hearts the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.

2 Mercy and truth at last have met; justice and
   peace are reconciled. Truth has risen from the
   earth; justice looked down from heaven and smiled.

3 Lord, you will grant prosperity; our land will
   yield its full increase. Justice shall go before your
   face; the pathway for your feet is peace.

This paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 85 includes some remarkable signs of God’s reign: that mercy, truth, justice, and peace exist simultaneously and that the fruits of creation will be abundant. Because we still await that day, this psalm is often associated with Advent.

TEXT: Christopher L. Webber, 2008
MUSIC: German melody harm. Lowell Mason, 1831
Text © 2008 Christopher L. Webber
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1. "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near;
3. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way,
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Geneva Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Geneva Psalter, 1551

GENEVA 42
8.7.8.7.7.8.8
96 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there. waste a way like flowers that wither and decay.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without your grace we on us shine and fill the world with love divine.

4 Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

MUSIC: Musikalisches Handbuch, 1690, harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW

(a) alternate tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur)