

We are Gathered by God

Prelude: "Prepare the Way, O Zion", arr. Richard Blake, © 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.,
a div. of the Lorenz Corp. Dan Chien, Organist/Choir Director

Introit: "Prepare the Way for the Lord" Deborah Govenor, © 1998 in Choral Responses for Today's Worship,
Hope Pub. Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188

Call to Worship (The Advent Candles) Grace Walker
Speaker: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts
and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

**People: "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing
the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves" (Psalm
126:5-6).**

(The first three candles are lit)

Speaker: Light three candles, see them glow, Brightly, so that all may know
How three candles show the way, Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of
joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayer of Invocation: Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to
hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may
our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Our Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

**We wander so easily, Father, from the paths of righteousness. We long for your interven-
tion which will create a new road for us to find our way into your gracious love and redemption.
Forgive us for our fears, insecurities, and sins which have kept us from having a closer walk with
you. Come to us in the advent of your Son; that we may be reborn to joy and gladness.... (silent
prayer). Amen.**

The Response: "*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child*"

Assurance of Pardon & Summary of the Law

Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

We Hear God in Word

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11 Steve Walker, Reader

Anthem: "Like a Rose", Ruth Elaine Schram, © 1996 by Alfred Pub. Co., Inc.

Sermon: "When Christmas Disappoints"

We Respond to God

Offertory: "When the King Shall Come Again" Christopher Idle/Piae Cantiones, 1582

Prayer of Dedication and Doxology

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: "There's a Song in the Air"

Benediction

Choral Response: "Like a Rose" (*Reprise*)

Postlude: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice", arr. Emily Lund, © 2012 Hope Pub. Co.