

Welcome and Announcements

Pat Cunningham

L: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**P: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Centering Bell

Music to Prepare Our Hearts “Give Them All To Jesus”

Cindy Haynes

*Words by Bob Benson, SR. and Phil Johnson. Music by Phil Johnson.*

Crossing the Threshold

“I Believe”

Ginny Hildebrand

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L: The place without light

**P: The place without light**

L: The depth of the night

**P: The depth of the night**

L: The pit of unknowing

**P: The pit of unknowing**

All Sing

**I believe in love, I believe in love,  
even when, even when I don't feel it.**

\*Song of Worship

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH 196

*By Charles Wesley, 1744 ~ Public Domain*

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Common English Bible

Anthem

“Prepare”

Chancel Choir

*By Allen Pote ©1995 Chorister's Guild CCLI #1365061*

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-15

Common English Bible

Litany of Belief

L: I believe that we are basing friendships on mutual political ideology AND

**P: I believe that we need to remember what Jesus said about loving your neighbor as yourself.**

L: I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion AND

**P: I believe that we can look deeper and focus instead on the things that we have in common.**

L: I believe that we are not treating each other well, AND

**P: I believe that God can reach into our hearts and souls to help us love one another more.**

L: I believe that we get stuck in our way of doing things, AND

**P: I believe we are capable of making changes for the better.**

L: We believe, even when we are discouraged, AND

**P: We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!**

L: Lord, we believe

**P: Lord, help us in our unbelief.**

A Season of Prayer

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer Song

“Stillness”

Cindy Haynes

*By Lindy Thompson and Mark Miller ©2013 Mark A. Miller and Lindy Thompson; Used by Permission*

A Time of Quiet for Personal Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

UMH 895

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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**

Invitation to Stewardship

Song During Offering

“Better Than a Hallelujah”

Cindy Haynes

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**\*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

UMH 95

*By Thomas Ken, 1672 ~ Public Domain*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host!**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**God of us all, thank you for your grace at work in our lives, in our church and in our world. As we begin Advent, may we model our living and our giving on the teachings of Jesus. Please accept this offering. Help us use it fully and completely, recognizing we do not know the day or the hour when you will send the Messiah among us.**

**\*Carol of Resistance                    “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”**

*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864 ~ Public Domain*

**Projected  
Verses 1, 3, 4**

**I heard the bells on Christmas day,  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."**

**\*Blessing**

**Handbell Benediction**

**“I Believe”**

**Canterbury Bells**

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**Music for Going Forth**

**“All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

**Dr. Kristie Janczyk**

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