

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

God, your love flows all around us. We will trust in you and not be afraid. You, loving God, are our strength. We will trust in you and not be afraid. Your love requires us to feed the poor, to give clothes to those who need them, to be fair to each other. Your love flows all around us and within us. We are renewed always in that sacred love. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN # 12

People, Look East

BESANCON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not yet expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and Death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p. 877, Old Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my stronghold and my song, and has become my Savior.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation,

And in that day you will say: Give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.

Make known among the nations what the Lord has done; proclaim that the name of the Lord is exalted.

Sing praises, for the Lord has done great things; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout and sing for joy, O people of God! Great in your midst is the Holy One.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7 (p. 198, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PROCLAMATION: CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Make Straight in the Desert a Highway

J. Carter

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

SENDING

*HYMN (see insert)

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE REJOICE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
ADVENT CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

December 16, 2018
Presbyterian Church in Needham