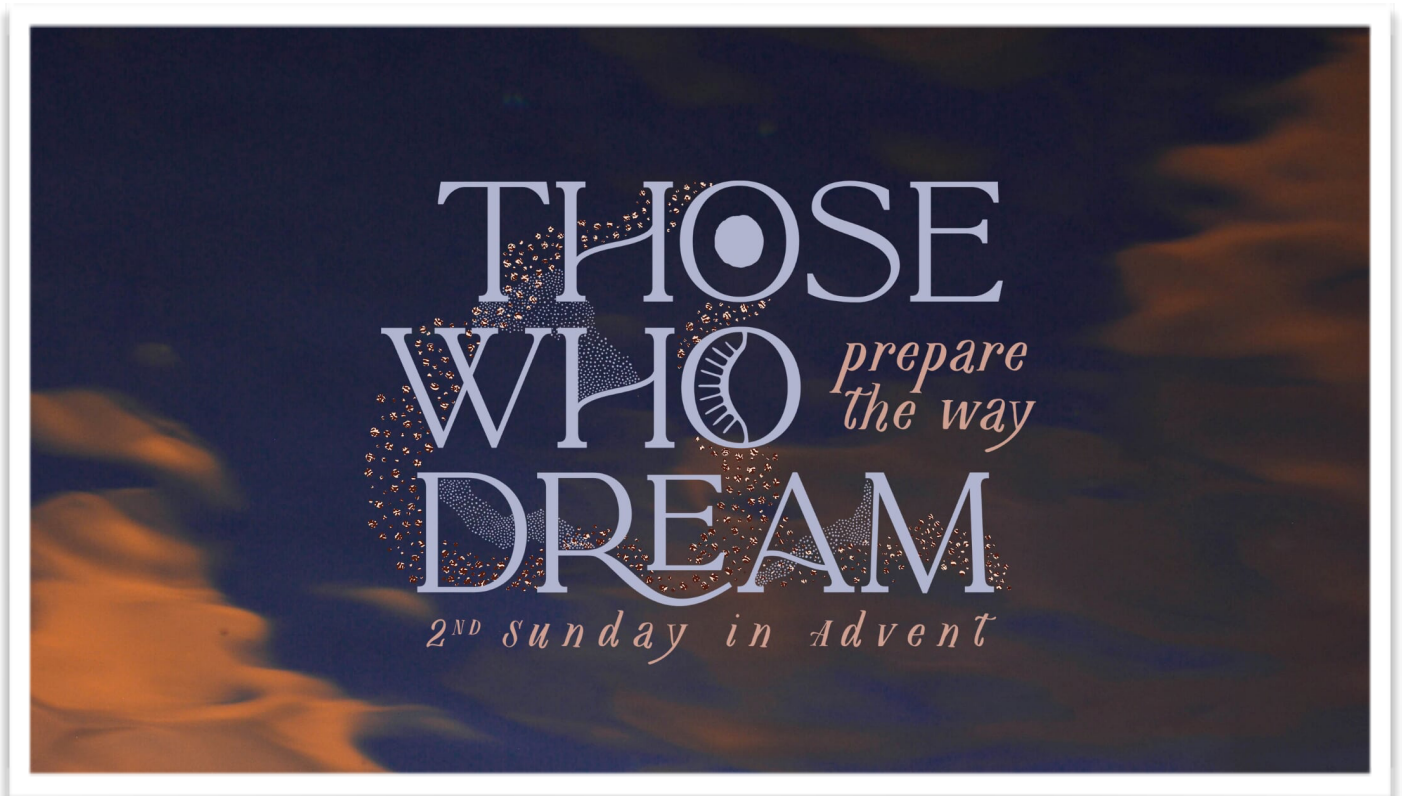


Christ Church United Church of Christ



December 6th, 2020

"No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Prelude

Isaiah 40:1-11
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Robert Thygerson

Welcome

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

One: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way." So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

All: We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We make space for God to speak.

One: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

All: We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel. We open ourselves up to be moved.

One: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space. We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.

One: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

All: We bring our full selves into this space. We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.

One: Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

"Good King Wenceslas" (Verses 1, 2, & 3)

Neale/Stainer

Talia Zoll, vocal; Max Gise, guitar

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"

"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me drink and bring me meat, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him eat, when we bear them thither."

Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold win's wild lament and the bitter weather.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

“Good King Wenceslas” (Verses 4 & 5)

Neale/Stainer

Talia Zoll, vocal; Max Gise, guitar

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”

“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter’s rage freeze thyself less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dented;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8 & 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Laura Petracco, Liturgist

Time with the Children

Sermon

“Preparing the Way”

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Praying Together

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

One: Holy God, I wish that peace was something I could buy. I wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. I wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when I was feeling my best. However, what I have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not I am feeling my best. So today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.

All: May God forgive you. May God’s guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

One: Amen.

All: Holy God, We wish that peace was something we could buy. We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best. However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best. So today we confess, in front of this community of faith, that we need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach us how to be a part of it.

One: May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing of the Lord's Supper

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

William Rowan

Vocalist from Christ Church, Ft. Thomas & St. John's, Newport
Stephanie Dalsfoist, Jennie Malone, Talia Zoll, Susan McDonald, Melissa Stephens,
Pam Weber, Theo Baldwin, Jeff McDonald, Steve Milloy, Larry Stinson, Tony Burdette
Organist, Charlie Beale, St. John, Bellevue

Benediction/Affirmation of Faith

Postlude

"Cavatina"
Max Gise, guitar

Stanley Myer

CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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