

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace; prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL & CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Christmas Season Benediction”

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Amen.

POSTLUDE

Worship Assistants



Greeters: Lucy Beck, Sherry & Benny Garwood

Acolytes: Jackson Beck and Owen Hedrick

Reader: Carson Ward

Ushers: Owen Hedrick, Mike Trantham and Benny Garwood

Sound and Video: Matt Hedrick

Children's Church: Leeah Watson

Hedrick's Grove Reformed United Church of Christ

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Pastor ~ Joshua W. Rau

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Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. David L. Crook

Director of Music: Patty Hedrick

Organist & Handbell Director: Trudy Vossburg-Keating

Administrative Assistant: Pixie Hughes Philemon

Hedrick's Grove Reformed United Church of Christ



*Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023*

A warm welcome to all today!

May this time of worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve the Creator who loves us with everlasting love in Christ Jesus.

Visitors, we are especially glad to see you.

Please come again!!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Indicates to please stand if able.

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

TRINITY CHIMES (At the sound of the chimes, please enter into a time of meditation.)

PRELUDE **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”** Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF CENTERING SILENCE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Ward Family

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare the way;

The way for Christ –

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

to enter our world, to enter our hearts.

We cry out together in the wilderness:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We come to be part of the light–

the light that shines in the darkness.

*GATHERING HYMN **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Red Hymnal # 169

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God’s unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves, joining in our prayer of confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Patient Lord, **forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don’t have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.**

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God’s beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, you are forgiven, for it is given especially to you.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

ANTHEM **“How Will We Know Him?”** Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11 Page 485

SPECIAL MUSIC **“Ding Dong, Merrily on High”** Bell Choir

SERMON TEXT Mark 1:1-8 Page 673

SERMON **“Advent...Preparing the Way”** Joshua W. Rau

*SERMON HYMN **“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”** Red Hymnal # 174

*STATEMENT OF FAITH APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER ~ PASTORAL PRAYER ~ LORD’S PRAYER (Debts and Debtors)

THANKSGIVING

God’s gifts move us to respond with grateful words and actions.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** Arr. Mark Hayes

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

*SENDING HYMN **“God Be with You ‘Til We Meet Again”** Red Hymnal # 523