

# Service for the Lord's Day

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## Pre-Service Music

Improvisation on *Winchester New*  
Chorale Prelude on *Lo How a Rose* Johannes Brahms  
Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

## Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

## The Lighting of the Peace Candle

The Crousey Family

**All:** Gracious God, grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give to us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

## Prelude

The King Shall Come arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

## Ringling of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**\*Hymn** bulletin pg. 7 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

## \*Invocation

Isaiah 40:1-11

*One: The voice of the Lord declares, "Comfort, O comfort my people."*

**All: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

*One: The earth will be transformed, God's glory will be revealed.*

**All: Meet us in this place, cleanse us, mold us.**

*One: Our ears and eyes perceive no other god besides You.*

**All: And so we worship you and await your presence.**

## \*Prayer of Confession:

**All:** Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of all. Help us live into our baptisms. Forgive us and remind us of the Good News of Jesus Christ; empower us to be the continuation of that Good News. Amen.

**\*Moments of Silent Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

2 Peter 3:8-15

*One: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved. With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. When we come to Christ, we turn from evil and he forgives our sin. In Christ, turn to a new way of life for you are forgiven! This is the Good News.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gloria Patri #575**

Glory Be to the Father

**Anthem**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Lloyd Larson

Covenant Choir

Based on Isaiah 40:1-5

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Every valley shall be lifted up; every mountain and hill made low.

Every crooked path shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

So comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord God who reigns on high.

To Jerusalem say, "Your night is gone, for the Lord has heard your cry.

Prepare the way of the Lord!"

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offertory**

Carol of the Bells

Franz Gruber

Covenant Handbell Ensemble (Matt Bell, Tracy Kramer, Paul Kramer, Evelina Konaniah, Mike Millhaem, Becky Bell, director)


**\*Doxology #572** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
At this time toddlers invited to go to Junior Church.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Lesson** Mark 1:1-8 Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson  
Pew Bible pg. 822; Large Print Bible pg. 1806  
*One: This is God's Word for God's People. All: Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon** Expect! Change Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

**\*Hymn** Lord, Prepare me to be a Sanctuary



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

**Sacrament of The Lord's Supper**

*We offer Communion during the worship service on the first Sunday of each month. We welcome anyone who proclaims Christ as Savior to partake. The Communion table is not restricted to Presbyterians. During the service, church elders will distribute the elements, while the congregation remains seated in the pews.*

**The Invitation**

**The Thanksgiving**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Communion**

We will share in the body together. You may drink of the cup when desired.

**The Prayer of Blessing**

**\*Apostles Creed**

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only 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 again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.**

**\*Hymn** bulletin pg. 8      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Improvisation on *Truro*  
Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers beside the pulpit are given to the glory of God  
by Bob and Charlotte Goering in memory of Charlotte’s parents,  
Robert and Mary Ann Williamson.

**The handbells will be playing on the front steps of the church immediately following the postlude this morning, weather permitting. Make sure to come out the front doors before heading to Fellowship Time to hear them play.**

There will be a time for Prayers for Healing after worship in the Ruth Fox Conference Room. Join Pastor Bob and the elder if you would like prayer.

**Looking Ahead — Sunday, December 12**

On the third Sunday of Advent we encounter what is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday or the Joyful Sunday - the candle on the Advent wreath will be pink in color in recognition of Mary's joy when she sang her song to her cousin, Elizabeth. Today we call this the Magnificat - we will examine the first part of that joyful song, Luke 5:12-18. As a reflection on the joy God gives His people, we will also look at 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18. This congregation was expecting Jesus to return in his Second Advent within a short time frame after his resurrection. When that did not occur, Apostle Paul wrote to them and encourages them with our text. The thought of Christ's physical return in his Second Advent is meant to bring joy to our lives. Joy dispels the daily trials of life you will see in the sermon text.

Matthew 3:1-3

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Charles Coffin, 1736  
Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

*Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690  
Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; Make  
3. We hail You as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our  
4. All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, And let us all our  
ref - uge, and our great re - ward; O let Your face up -  
ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Psalm 24:7-10

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO LM

Georg Weissel, 1642  
Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855

Thomas Williams, 1789  
Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates, Be - hold, the  
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to

King of glo - ry waits; The King of kings is  
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for  
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me Thy in - ner

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here!  
heaven's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer, and love, and joy.  
pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.

**This Week at Covenant-First**

**Sunday, December 5**

9 AM — Choir Rehearsal

9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School

9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study

10:30 AM — Worship

11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

11:30 AM — Prayers for Healing in the Ruth Fox Conference Room.

7 PM — Ol' Fashion Carol Sing

**Wednesday, December 8**

12 PM — Brown Bag Bible Study

**Friday, December 10**

7 PM — Mars Hill Madrigal

**Saturday, December 11**

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study in the Chapel

1 PM — Mars Hill Madrigal

**Planning Ahead**

**Sunday, December 12**

9 AM — Choir Rehearsal

9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School

9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study

10:30 AM — Worship

11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

2 PM — Cincinnati Brass Band Concert

4 PM — Open House at the Cameron Home

**Monday, December 13**

6:30 PM — Session Meeting in the Chapel

**Wednesday, December 15**

12 PM — Brown Bag Bible Study

**Saturday, December 18**

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study in the Chapel