



## Advent Midweek Service

### Opening Response

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says: **“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

### Opening Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Give us courage and faith to proclaim, in word and deed, the good news of your coming, even as we wait in patience for that day when Christ will come again. **Amen.**

### Reading

#### **2 Peter 3:8-10, 14-15a**

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed... <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation....

### Reflection Questions

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What in your life requires patience?

What are you waiting for?

How might you prepare the way of Christ's coming?

### Reflection

Advent is a season of expectation, the word itself means “coming.” Many families spend these four weeks waiting for children to come home from college, or for grandparents to come for Christmas dinner. For young children, these days of waiting can seem like a thousand years. Others are amazed at how quickly time is

flying, as they sense the end of their own lives drawing near. In the interval, stories from the past are told and retold as a way of remembering the significance of these waiting days.

As with any long period of waiting, we know that the final days are the hardest to bear. We struggle to understand why we ourselves, never mind the rest of creation, must wait any longer for the salvation and redemption God has promised. Our salvation is connected with the salvation of others and so we are reminded that God has been patient with us, “not wanting any to perish”. We therefore practice patience with God as we remain steadfast in hope and holiness.

### **Hymn of the Day**

Prepare the Royal Highway

### **Responsive Prayer**

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.** (silence)

Clothe your ministers with righteousness. **Let your people sing with joy.** (silence)

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.** (silence)

Lord, keep this nation under your care, **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.** (silence)

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.** (silence)

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.** (silence)

Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.** (silence)

### **Closing Prayer**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder, **God is with us.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**