



**Prepare the Royal Highway:
A Midweek Series for Advent**

Overview

Advent 2: G.P.S. (God's Positioning System)

What are your expectations for the Messiah? Likely not a tiny child ushering in a new vision of peace. Through the coming of Christ, God repositions and reorients our lives. Are you ready to follow God's new direction?

Opening Dialogue

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Go through the gates, build up the highway,

clear it of stones, remove any obstacles.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Come, let us journey to the Bethlehem manger.

Hear of God's promises, witness God's faithfulness,

Sing with Mary, rejoice with Elizabeth.

Prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

(Based on Isaiah 2:5, 57:14, 62:10)

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer

God of new visions, guide us along our Advent journey. Reorient our lives, lead us in the way of peace, and grant us your spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reflection followed by silence

Hymn

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Prayers

Gracious God, send your Son into our midst.

Show us your pathways of love.

Grant that war may cease and divisions end.

Show us your pathways of peace.

Watch over all who are sick, mourning, or in special need of your care.

Show them your pathways of hope.

Fill our world with gladness at the coming of the Savior.

Show us your pathways of joy.

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

May the light of Christ show you the way, the love of God be your guidepost, and the power of the Spirit sustain your journey. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to prepare the way. **Thanks be to God.**

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