

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace*

December 9, 2018

**B**lest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the messenger of day.

— *The Song of Zechariah*, paraphrased by Michael Perry, 1973

## GATHERING AT GOD'S INVITATION

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. Alan Sherouse

CHORAL INTROIT

*J. Jerome Williams*

*Call to Advent*  
Youth Choir

ADVENT WREATH

Lauren Worsley

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of Your servant David.**

Through Your holy prophets, You promised of old to save us  
from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember Your holy covenant.**

This is the oath You swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies:**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall  
break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow  
of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

—Zechariah's Prophecy from Luke 1.68-79

## HANGING OF THE GREEN

John 14.6

The Symbol of Flowers . . . I am the Way

Young Family

*Christ be our leader by night as by day,  
safe through the darkness, for he is the Way.  
Gladly we follow, our future his care,  
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.*

The Symbol of Light . . . I am the Truth

Key Family

*Christ be our teacher in age as in youth,  
drifting or doubting, for he is the Truth.  
Grant us to trust him; though shifting as sand,  
doubt cannot daunt us; in Jesus we stand.*

The Symbol of Evergreens . . . I am the Life

Reynolds Family

*Christ be our Savior in calm as in strife;  
death cannot hold us, for he is the Life.  
Darkness, nor doubting, nor sin and its stain can  
touch our salvation: with Jesus we reign.*

## †HYMN 136

PUER NOBIS

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

## †WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP

Dr. Steve Sumerel

## A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Christina McCord

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

During the musical interlude, children, ages four through first grade,  
may attend **Junior Church** and return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Rev. Chris Cherry

CHORAL ANTHEM

*James Brighton*

*Hope Will Come*

Youth Choir, Baker Lawrimore, Ministry Fellow *directing*  
Cynthia Hartis *accompanist*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

OPENING OF GOD'S WORD

Mitchell Bradford

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3.1-6

Melissa Sample

SERMON

Rev. Sherouse

More Loud and Deep

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE 337

*TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM*

*When the King Shall Come Again*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

MISSIONS MOMENT

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offering for Global Missions

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Joshua Knight

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Douglas Wagner*

*Rejoicing!*

Youth Handbells

## SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Sherouse

At the conclusion of the service everyone is invited to place a **Chrismon** ornament on the trees at the front of the sanctuary.

