

Welcome & Call to Worship

Hymn – MP 173 – Glorious things of thee are spoken

1. Glorious things of Thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for His own abode:
on the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove:
who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

2nd Advent Candle

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Hymn – MP 281 – I lift my eyes

1. I lift my eyes
to the quiet hills
in the press of a busy day;
as green hills stand
in a dusty land
so God is my strength and stay.

2. I lift my eyes
to the quiet hills
to a calm that is mine to share;
secure and still
in the Father's will
and kept by the Father's care.

3. I lift my eyes
to the quiet hills
with a prayer as I turn to sleep;
by day, by night,
through the dark and light
my Shepherd will guard his sheep.

4. I lift my eyes
to the quiet hills
and my heart to the Father's throne;
in all my ways
to the end of days
the Lord will preserve his own.

suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Reading: James 5: 7 – 12 - ⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. ¹² Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

Hymn – MP 283 – I look to the hills

*I look to the hills
from where shall my help come;
my help comes from the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.*

1. He will not allow
your foot to ever slip;
He who keeps you will not sleep.
*I look to the hills
from where shall my help come;
my help comes from the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.*

2. He watches over you
as your shade from moon and sun;
He will keep you from all harm.
*I look to the hills
from where shall my help come;
my help comes from the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.*

3. He will guard your ways
as you come and as you go;
from this time and for evermore.
*I look to the hills
from where shall my help come;
my help comes from the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.*

Reading: Malachi 3:1 – 4 & 10 – 12 - ¹ I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then

(Continued overleaf)

Reading – Luke 3: 1 – 6 & 10 - 15 - ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’” ¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

Sermon

Prayer

Dedication of Offering

Hymn – MP 291 – I rest in God alone

*I rest in God alone
from him comes my salvation;
my soul finds rest in Him,
my fortress-I'll not be shaken.*

1. My hope is in the Lord,
my honour and strength;
my refuge is in Him for ever,
my trust and all of my heart-
in Him alone my soul finds rest.

*I rest in God alone
from him comes my salvation;
my soul finds rest in Him,
my fortress-I'll not be shaken.*

2. O, trust in Him, you people,
pour out your hearts,
for God is our refuge for ever,
my trust and all of my heart-
in Him alone my soul finds rest.
O, trust in Him, you people.....

Prayer

Benediction

Hymn - MP 460 – May God's blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
as you trust Him and walk in His way.
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.