

REFLECTION**HYMN - *Come Touch Our Hearts* (MV 12)****MISSION MESSAGE & OFFERING****Music During the Offering:***Come Unto Him* from Handel's *Messiah***COMMUNITY PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER****MUSIC BEFORE PRAYER MV 97 (sing 2X)***One: Listen ...**All: Listen God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.*

words and. music: traditional Tanzanian song

HYMN - *Hark the Glad Sound* (VU 29)**SUNG BLESSING (MV 215) (sing 2X)***Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you my friends.
Till we meet again, may God go with you,
Peace ... peace ... peace.*

words and music: Alison L. Wesley (Slaats), 2000

POSTLUDE**KNOX UNITED CHURCH**

As we gather for worship today, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral land of several Indigenous nations, and part of the homeland of the Metis. We respect the sacredness of our shared home and the ground on which we walk, and we are grateful for its stewardship through the centuries.

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SINGING THE SPIRIT (MV 18) (sing 2X)*Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you*

word and music: John W. Thompson & Randy Scruggs

CALL TO WORSHIP & GATHERING PRAYER**HYMN - *God, Help Us to Treasure* (MV 147)****LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

(see insert)



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GREETING GOD'S FAMILY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Symbols of Christmas



HOLY CONVERSATION

We are called into a relationship with God of comfort and peace, but we are too busy right now to listen. We flock to the stores run by temptation and seduction, seeking the best prices. We rush to judge everyone around us, but ask God to be more patient with us and our repeated mis-doings. We feast at a table piled high with broken promises, and drink from a cup of fading dreams.

God continues to cry out to us, with a message of peace and love that knows no bounds. Grace is a gift for every moment, not just one day. Hope can be our constant companion as we journey along life's pathway.

At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's

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presence always with us. We are not alone. Amen.

HYMN - *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
(VU 2)

WORDS FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people

Early Letters 2 Peter 3:8-10

God's promise is true

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

Mark's story of John the baptizer

ANTHEM *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

words: based on Isaiah 40:4-5 music: William Rowan

Solo 1 - Susan Maitland; Solo 2 - Blandine Norman

*Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way!
Make straight his path. Prepare the way!*

*Every valley shall be exalted,
every hill made low;
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places plain.*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it together.*

