

Advent Wednesday Worship Service- Dec. 9

Welcome!

Opening:

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:

“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Prayer:

Please join me in praying. **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.**

Psalm 37 Please read with me.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
 4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.
 6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
 and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
 do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
 over those who carry out evil devices.
 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
 16 Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked.
 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.
 18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will abide forever;
 19 they are not put to shame in evil times, in the days of famine they have abundance.
 28 For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones.
 The righteous shall be kept safe forever,
 but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
 29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and live in it forever.

Prayer:

Please join me in praying:

God our strength, give us the humility to trust in your loving care, and the patience to be faithful in seeking your way, that we may come to share in the inheritance of your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture:

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
 I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
 I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Reflection

What do you love that you have to let go?

What makes it important?

What word or image stands out to you in this reading as you let go?

What does it mean to let go of what you love as you consider this passage?

Will it help you stay awake, to watch, to keep alert?

Prayers:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,
and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son,
that you have graciously protected us today.

We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong,
and graciously to protect us tonight.

Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.

Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

As we wait, watch and wonder,

God is with us.