

The Church at Worship

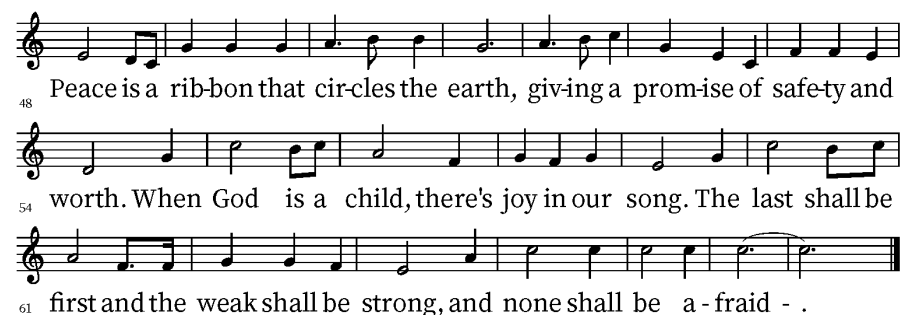
* Invitation to stand if able Congregational responses are **BOLDED**

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, arr. John Carter
Comfort ye, from Messiah, GF Handel



Welcome/Life of the Fellowship
Lighting of the Advent Candle of PEACE

***Sung in response**



Together, We Come to God

Call to Worship

Now is the time to get ready:

Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Now is the time to be changed:

Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

We will worship God in humble expectation.

***Hymn** **# 109** *All earth is waiting*

***Opening Prayer**

God of purpose and promise,

You love the breadth and depth of your creation

You set pathways for us to follow,

clearing the way in the wilderness of the world.

When we find the path too rough, or too sad, or too boring

We can stray from your path,

And, in your grace, You keep calling us back to that path.

You call us by name in our baptisms.

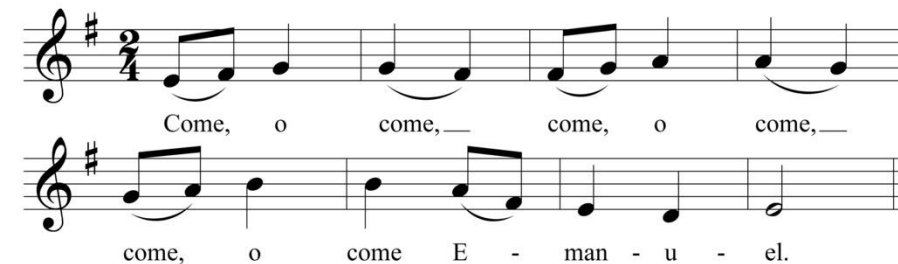
You imagine for us how to serve your creations

And so we come to you to find our true purpose,

Knowing the path you set will lead to peace and well-being

in your deep love, revealed for us in Christ Jesus. AMEN

*** Sung Response**



God Speaks to Us

Scripture Readings **HEBREW BIBLE** Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Musical Reflection *Comfort ye my People*, by Daniel Burton

Epistle Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Children's Time *Signs and Symbols*

Bible Quest invitation #812 *Glory to Go*



***Gospel Reading** Mark 1:1-8

Sermon *Down by the River* Rev. David Jones

We Respond to God

***Hymn of Response** **#120** *Lo! Christ comes with clouds*

Dedication Hymn **#145 vs 4** *In the bleak mid-winter*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I
would bring a lamb. If I were a Wiseman, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give him my heart

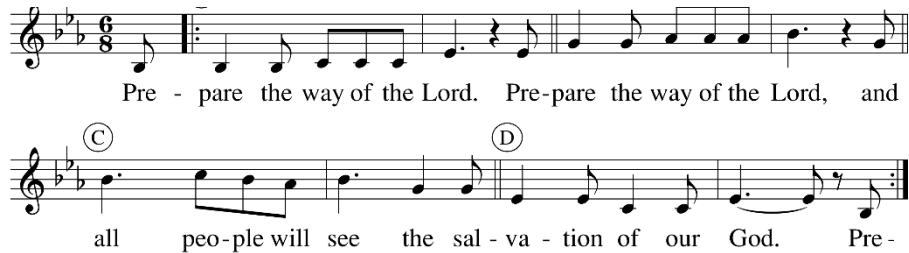
Blessing of the Offering

Pastoral Prayer

* Closing Hymn #166 *Once in Royal David's city*

* Benediction

* Sung Blessing



Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High*, arr. Larry Shackley

NOTES

THANK YOU to all the people who offer, freely, their time and talent
without whom today's worship service would not be possible.

GO INTO GOD'S PEACE

If you feel called to support your ministry as a volunteer, contact Susan St. John at
sstjohn.macneill@gmail.com or 905-512-9897

Church Moderator: Jon Purdy

Director of Music: Monica Admiral

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care: Susan St. John

Custodian: Sandy Palin

Associate Ministers in Chaplaincy: Robert Bond, Felida Toledo, Claire Gosselin, David Jones

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MacNeill Baptist Church

There's a Place for you Here

December 10, 2023



PEACE BLOOMING WILD

*Oh Peace come forth in singing,
Bow down on bended knee,
By God, Peace be anointed
So our world can clearly see.*

MacNeill Baptist Church acknowledges the traditional territory upon which we gather as a community of faith, that territory of the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee peoples. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in peace, friendship, and respect. Acknowledging territory is a beginning and not an ending in terms of our work towards truth and reconciliation. We hope that this acknowledgement will be a springboard towards a deeper relationship with all Indigenous peoples we meet.

