

The Church at Worship

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

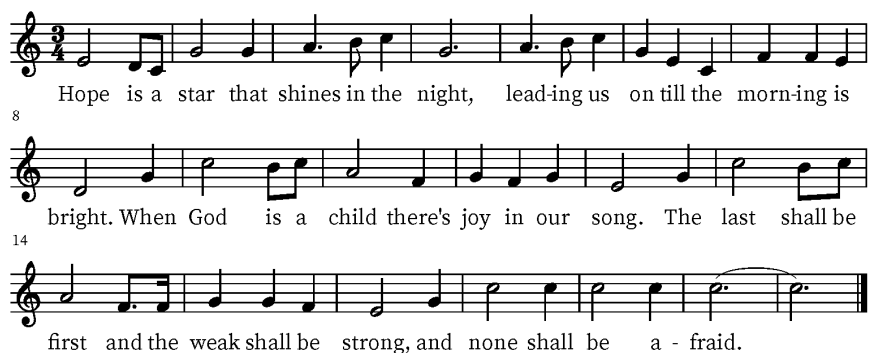
Prelude *Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. Jay Rouse
Veni, veni Emanuel, trad. 13th century chant



Welcome/Life of the Fellowship

Lighting of the Advent Candle of HOPE

***Sung in response**



Together, We Come to God

Call to Worship

Into the world's deep darkness, light shines; in an arid land, a flower blooms bright and wild.

Among hungry people, bread is shared.

And we, God's people, gather to welcome, to seek, to pray, to sing;
**to honour and await the coming One, the Christ who comes with healing,
and with hope that will transform the world.**

*Hymn # 128 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

***Opening Prayer**

O Holy One, we seek you where the ancient ones imagined you, far above the cities, far beyond the stars, in the brightest heavens.

And yet we do not see your face.

We turn our gaze within where it is said you make your dwelling.

And yet, we often cannot sense your presence.

Other voices urge us to make lists and set impossible goals again this Advent.

Calm our restlessness. Clear our vision.

Let us see as with the eyes of children:

the long journey, the warm stable, the cradle waiting to be filled with the Christ Child. Amen.

*** Sung Response**



God Speaks to Us

Scripture Readings HEBREW BIBLE Isaiah 64:1-9

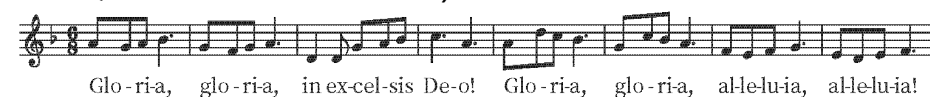
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Musical Reflection *Thou Shalt Know Him* by Mark Sirett

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Children's Time

Bible Quest invitation #812 *Glory to God*



***Gospel Reading** **Matthew 23:1-12**

Sermon *Hope Blooming Wild* Paula Papky

We Respond to God

Dedication Hymn # 145, vs 4

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

We Meet at the Lord's Table

*** Communion Hymn #542** *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* vs 1,2

We share the Bread and Cup

... Therefore with angels and archangels, and all who have served you in every age, we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

...Remembering Christ's death and resurrection, we proclaim the great
mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Communion Music

Let all Mortal Flesh keep Silence, arr. Lloyd Larson
Of the Father's Love Begotten, arr. John Carter

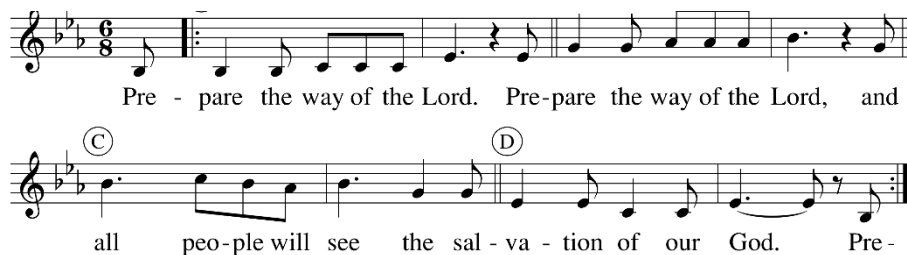
* **Communion Hymn #542** *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* vs 3,4

Pastoral Prayer

* **Closing Hymn #160** *Unto us a child is born*

* Benediction

* Sung Blessing



Postlude *People, Look East* arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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

MacNeill Baptist Church

There's a Place for you Here

1145 King Street West, Hamilton ON L8S 1L9

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email: contact@macneillbaptist.ca

December 3, 2023



HOPE BLOOMING WILD

*Expect a turning on the pointless path,
Expect wild roses on a dirt-brown road,
Expect a dance from bare December stumps*

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.

