

Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O come, Desire of nations,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Do good and share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offering

Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter

Purifoy

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

Prayer of Dedication

Emmanuel, God with us, the Magi followed the star to find you. Amazed, they gave gifts. We too are amazed by your presence among us, by the gift that you are to us. With joyful hearts, we bring you our gifts of time, of money, of ourselves. Use these and us to serve you and your world. **Amen**

 Hymn 155

Once in Royal David's City

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Name Meanings

Val Petrie

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" ³ For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight!

⁴ Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

⁷ When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance. ⁹ And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

Sermon

"Preparing the Way"
Rev. Paul Toms

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 Hymn 82

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Prayer of Consecration

! Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

! Hymn 1

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

! Benediction & Blessing

*This mornings Prayer Partners are
Carolyn Thompson & Dan Obenschain*

 **Postlude**

Praise and Thanks for the New Year

Ritter