

Season of Advent

PREPARE THE WAY



Northwest United Protestant Church

Disciples of Christ

Sunday, December 05, 2021

Rev. Miriam Gentle

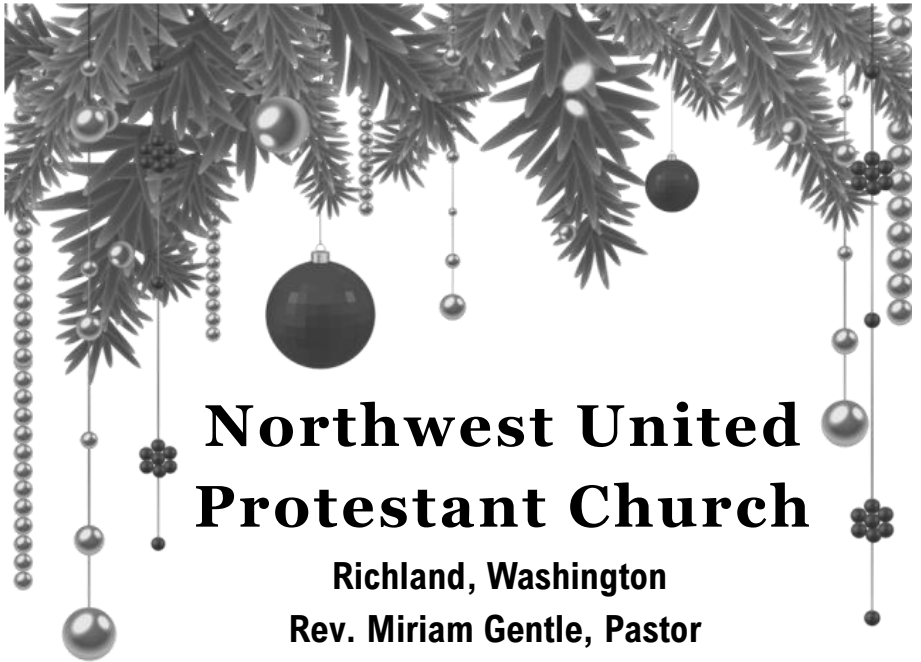
**“Loving and Serving Christ in our
Community and World”**

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Office Hours: M-F 9:00a — 1:00p



Northwest United Protestant Church

Richland, Washington
Rev. Miriam Gentle, Pastor

9:45 a.m.

December 05, 2021

Prelude

Sue Lincoln, Pianist

Welcome

Call to Worship

Sue Jewett

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way of the Lord!

We have heard the promise. God's chosen One will soon be among us. We must make ready.

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

The wilderness places of our lives may threaten to overwhelm us. We easily lose our way. But a second candle adds its light. Today we light the candle of peace. We light it

knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. We trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Second Candle is Lit

Opening Prayer

Unison

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,
We thank you for the hope and peace you offer us.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

Response

“One Candle is Lit”

#128 (1,2)

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Miriam Gentle

Lord's Prayer

Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Hymn "Christians All, Your Lord is Coming" #136 (1,2,4)

Christians all, your Lord is coming,
drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets,
let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory;
kneel and pause to hear God's word.

Christians all, your Lord is coming,
calling you to serve in deed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer,
hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you.
Purge your hearts of sinful greed.

Christians all, your Lord is coming,
hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation,
walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given;
share the birth that stirs your soul.

Benediction

Rev. Miriam Gentle

Congregational Refrain

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

Postlude

Sue Lincoln, Pianist

PRAYER CONCERNS

- ◇ Healing prayers for Pat C's friend Lynda; Candace's niece Alice; the Galpin's friend, Jason G, recovering at home.
- ◇ Prayers for Northwest Church, that we discover new ways to be faithful to God's call and continue to be generous with our gifts so that we continue to love and serve our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

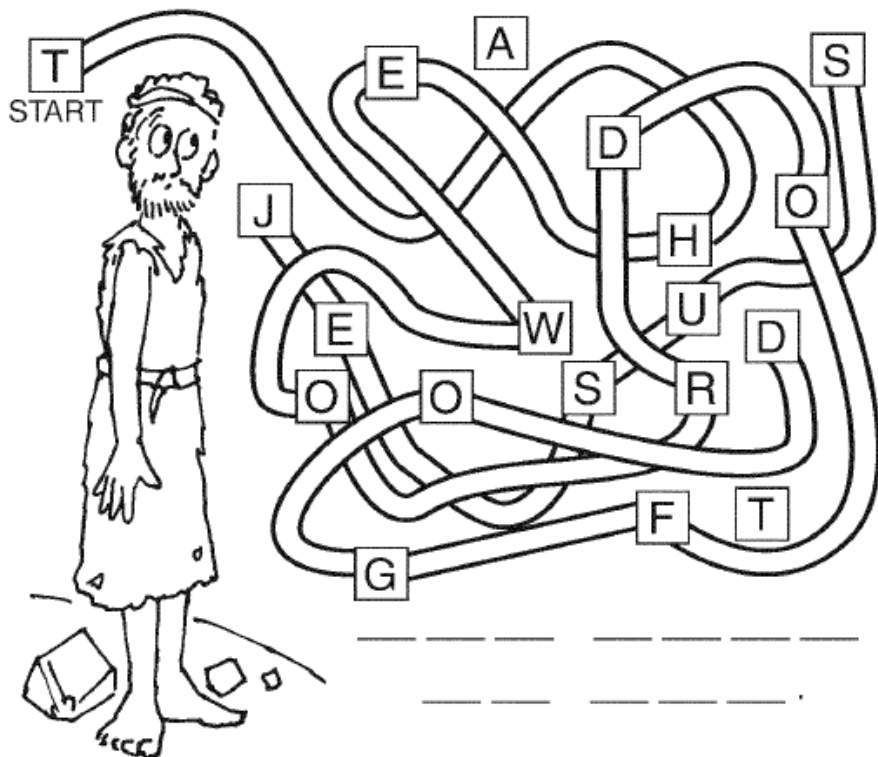
- ◇ **HANDBELL CHOIR:** Rehearsal for Christmas is on Wednesdays, at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary!
- ◇ **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY:** Rev. Jennifer Jacobson will be leading the Advent Bible Study! The meetings are online on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, starting the first week of December.
- ◇ **WOMEN'S CHORAL ENSEMBLE:** Rehearsal for Christmas is on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM at 10:00 AM on Saturdays in the Sanctuary! All are welcome.
- ◇ **HAT AND MITTEN TREE:** All the new winter hats, gloves and mittens of all sizes will be donated to World Relief.



The Preaching of John the Baptist

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was in the wilderness. Something came to him there! What was it?

Follow the line from box to box, writing the letters you find along the way in order on the blanks below.



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