

**“Prepare the Way, O Zion”**  
(TUNE: ST. LOUIS, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)  
Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847)  
Adapted by Dennis Dewey (2001)

- 1. Prepare the way, O Zi-on, your Christ is— drawing near!  
Let ev’ry hill and vall—ey a level—way appear.  
Greet him who comes in glory, foretold on sacred page.  
O Bless—èd is the one who comes to save this needy age!**
- 2. Christ brings God’s rule, O Zi-on; he comes from— heav’n above.  
His rule is peace and free-dom, with justice—, truth and love.  
All lands will bow before him, their adoration bring.  
O Bless—èd is the one who comes, our Savior and our King!**
- 3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi-on, your savior’s— rule embrace.  
And tidings of salva—tion announce in— ev’ry place.  
Let every tongue and people, his praises now proclaim.  
O Bless—èd is the one who comes in God’s most holy name!**

**STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP**  
**December 7, 2025 ~ Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ 10:30 a.m.**



*The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.*

#### **All the People, Ministers**

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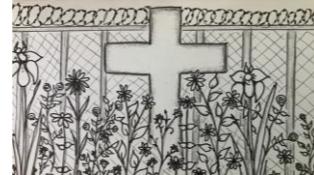
**An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
**A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation**  
**December 7, 2025 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent**



**We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming**

**PRELUDE**                    **“Winchester New”**                    Christopher Tambling  
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

**POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER INTROIT & CHORAL INTROIT**



**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.  
**and a branch shall grow out of his roots.**  
The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
**who will arise to rule over the nations and be the hope of all peoples.**  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
**“Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight!”**  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.  
**Let us worship God.**

**+ HYMN #10**                **“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**                WINCHESTER NEW  
(+Those who are able may stand.)

**WELCOME**

**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE** – Sonia Teuchert and Mary Chamberlain

**UNISON PRAYER**

Dear God, as we move along our pilgrimage together, deepen our relationship  
with you, with one another, and with all of your creation.

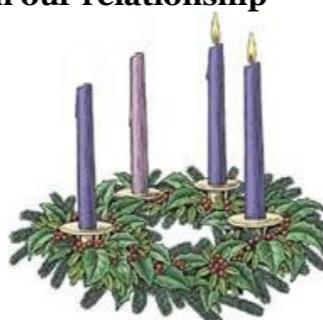
**Help us**

- to make ready a pathway for your coming
- to clean out the debris in our hearts and in our closets
- to clear out a space in our calendars
- to put aside any sense of unworthiness
- and to focus on the One who comes to love us.

**Amen!**

**+THE ADVENT GIVING - PEACEMAKING AND GLOBAL WITNESS**

*You are invited to bring forward your offering for the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support world-wide peacemaking and global witness efforts.*



...we join with all the faithful to sing the eternal song of praise.

**(SINGING)**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
God of pow-er, Lord of might,  
Your great glory fills the heav-ens  
and the earth with glorious light.  
Loud hosanna in the highest;  
blessèd is the One who’s coming:  
Jesus Christ, the Lord of all!**

W ŻŁOBIE ŁEŻY (“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

... we announce to the world the story of our faith as we sing together:

**(SINGING)**

**Christ was born to live among us,  
share the life of humankind.  
Teaching wisdom in self-giving,  
life eternal there to find.  
Crucified, he died to save us.  
Then he rose new life to bring us.  
Christ the Lord will come again!**

W ŻŁOBIE ŁEŻY (“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Traditional Version, *Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 16)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION**

(Please come forward by the center aisle to receive and partake the bread and individual cups, then stand around the tables in the side aisles.)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We Go Out in the Peace of the Prince of Peace**

**+ HYMN (insert)**                **“Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

sung to ST. LOUIS

**+CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**+CHORAL RESPONSE**

**+POSTLUDE**



**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*first together then in silent reflection*)

God of the future,  
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
that we have lived casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment,  
that we have not known the things that make for peace.  
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,  
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and shalom.  
Lead us to true repentance.  
Baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire,  
and in your great mercy,  
forgive us all our sin and raise us to new life.  
Let our lives bear the fruits of repentance and forgiveness  
that we may prepare the way of the one who comes  
to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found;  
for his sake we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

+**A DOXOLOGY** (to the tune GLORIA)  
To the God of Peace we sing,  
to the Son let praises ring,  
To the Holy Spirit raise this  
our song of grateful praise:  
*Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!*

+**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



**We Listen for the Word of God**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

(You are invited to say the concluding “amen” aloud.)

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

***Isaiah 11:1-10 – A vision of the peaceable kingdom***  
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

***Romans 15:4-13 – The gospel is for Jews and Gentiles alike***  
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

**ANTHEM**

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

John Scott

***Matthew 3:1-12 – John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah***

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

**SERMON**

“If You Want Peace...”

**We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving**

+ **HYMN #2**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made.

What was made in him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not been able to overcome it.

The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own home, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OFFERTORY**

“Hyfrydol”

John Marsh

+**A DOXOLOGY**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

ADESTE FIDELES

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

+**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. / And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. / We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. /

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

10

Charles Coffin, 1736

Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Musikalisches Handbuch, 1690

Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

## ADVENT

## 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

Alternate tune: STUTTGART, 1