

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 13, 2020**  
Third Sunday of Advent



**Preparatory Music**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

arr. Jim Brickman

**Welcome and Lighting of three Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from the one who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God.  
Hallelujah!*

**Prelude**

*Mary, Did You Know?*  
Flute and piano

arr. Cindy Blevins

**Call to Worship**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.  
He is the righteous savior,  
And he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

from Zechariah 9

**Hymn 96**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!  
Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets. Anointed by your Spirit, may we testify to your light. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Hymn 673

*"Jesus, Light of Joy"*

*Jesus, light of joy surround us; let your splendid glory shine:  
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.  
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.*

*With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.  
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night.  
Alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.*

## Sermon

*Light in the wilderness*

## Offertory

*Christmas Medley*  
Flute and piano

arr. Gary Lanier

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

## Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

## Hymn 106

### *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.*

*He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.*

## Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*Fugue in C Major*

George Frideric Handel

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*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burlison, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist  
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

*Susan Bandel, Flute soloist*