

## Worship for December 5

### **WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

#### **Drake & Jennifer Dowler**

For many of us, coming home is full of anticipation, joy, and hope. We can't wait to reconnect with loved ones and beloved traditions. There are some who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back painful memories. Our heart's home- the home we long for, and the home God has promised us- is a home that knows peace, peace that rests between us and our grief, peace around our anxiety, peace between us and our self-condemnation, peace amidst our relationships, peace hovering through and in our world. The home we long for is a home that knows peace. We light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road may be hard, we believe the journey has purpose and fulfillment. It is time to go home.

#### **HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 2**

#### **OPENING MUSIC - *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*, arr. Mark Hayes Michael Parker, piano**

### **SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have sent prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. However, we confess that we have not listened to their cries. We have ignored their warnings and we have refused to listen to your word. Forgive us and give us the grace to listen as you call us to prepare the way for your coming. Equip us and enable us to prepare a path for you in our lives, in our church, and in our communities. (silent prayers)

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

#### **HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

### **CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING      Luke 3:2b-6, 10-14**

the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3**He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4**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. **5** 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; **6**and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" "

**10**And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" **11**In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and

whoever has food must do likewise." **12**Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" **13**He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." **14**Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

**SERMON** *What Should We Do?*

**Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee**

**ANTHEM - Ave Maria, Giulio Caccini**  
**Starmount Chancel Choir**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Gifts may also be made online at [starmountpres.org/serve/giving/](http://starmountpres.org/serve/giving/)

**Affirmation of Faith – Isaiah 35 (responsive)**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

**Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

**For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;**

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

**the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**HYMN 105** *People, Look East*

**BENEDICTION**