

Throughout history the rays of light have multiplied.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(All singing as the candles are lit:)

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King.

God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling to repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless on that glorious day when Christ comes to rule the world as Prince of Peace.

Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please find and sign the Registration of Attendance pad and pass it to others on the same pew, so that we may have a record of your attendance at this service. If you are visiting today, we hope you will provide contact information, especially your email address, so that we may share more about the program and activities of this congregation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING # *(Pew Bible, p. 640 OT)*

Isaiah 11:1-10

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING # *(Pew Bible, p. 2 NT)*

Matthew 3:1-12

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM +

In the Bleak Midwinter
Chancel Choir

Gustav Holst

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

At the 11:00 service, when this time is concluded, children pre-school through 2nd grade are invited to join the leader to go to children's church. The rest may return to sit with their family in the sanctuary.

*HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

SERMON

The Advance Guard

Harry C. Meissner

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Creed of the United Church of Canada

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true human, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and in others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be in his church: to celebrate his presence,

to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Ladies Ensemble

arr. B.J. Mauldin

*DOXOLOGY *(Hymn 606)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Reception of the Sacrament

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE +

People Look East
Chancel Choir

French folk melody

VOLUNTARY

People Look East

Wayne Wold

OUR INVITATION

Every service of worship invites us to consider our relationship to Jesus Christ and to his church. If you are not vitally involved in some community of faith, perhaps this congregation is the place where you can worship, find fellowship, grow, and share in our mission and witness to the world. If you would like to discuss this important matter, please indicate your interest on the registration of attendance pad or speak to the minister following the service.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder - (8:45) Karen Harris, (11:00) Andy Leake

** Deacon - (8:45) Amanda Aynes, (11:00) David Starnes

Acolyte - MacKenzie Aynes (11:00)

Advent Candle Lighters - (8:45) Futrell Family, (11:00) Susan and Nick Scholl