

On the road to repentance

Call to worship - *Adapted from Isaiah 40:3-5*

Leader: Listen! A voice cries out in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Song

Lighting of Advent candles – When the heart is moving in readiness, there is an openness to the “new”—perhaps the fresh thing God wants to do.

To embrace the new requires a letting go of the past.

Repentance means we are letting go and making space for God’s new work in us. Prepare and repent.

Song

Children’s time

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8, 2 Peter 3:8-15a .

Monologue - “John the Baptist Prepares the Way” based on Mark 1:1-8

Sermon - Towards the Fullness

Song

Response: Confession and words of assurance

Adapted from Psalm 85:8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Leader: We hear John the Baptist’s cry in the desert
and are called to repentance.

People: We will hear what God the Lord will say:

Leader: The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, but is patient, not wanting anyone to perish.

People: Revive us again, that we may rejoice in you.
Show us your unfailing love,
and grant us your salvation.

Leader: Salvation is near to those who fear God.

All: *We receive this gift. Help us to walk in your way.*

Sharing/Pastoral Prayer

Song – Offering reflections

Announcements – Meat Canning, Dec. 14-18, at Freeport.

Any Anti-racism materials you know of to recommend to the Church Board? Next Sunday a discussion, following worship, of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Presentation - “*The danger of a single story*”

https://www.ted.com/talk/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Please view the talk once or twice before next Sunday.

MH Annual Meeting, Sat. Dec. 12, 10:00 am. Contact MH by Tuesday if you plan to attend.

The *Voices Together* dedication launch celebration, Dec. 13, 4 – 6 pm register online.

Benediction - People of God, people on the road: something greater is coming—prepare the way of the Lord!

Go forth, attuned to the Holy Spirit, making room for the light of the world.