

Prayer of Confession *followed by silent prayer*

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness,
we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing.
Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (unison) GOD REST YOU MERRY, arr. Hare

O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.
And save us all from Satan's power when we have gone astray.
O Lord, have mercy on us, mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon and Response (unison) GLORY TO GOD

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Choral Anthem "The Desert Shall Rejoice" Archer
Ann Neel, flutist

*The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with praise and singing.*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-4

*For the ears of the deaf shall hear, shall hear,
and the eyes of the blind shall be opened.*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:5-10

Hymn 121 (verses 1, 3 and 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

New Testament Reading James 5:7-10

The Sermon "Waiting for Christmas" Keith Grogg

Anthem "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" German/Praetorius

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Offertory "Pastorale on Advent Themes" arr. Currie

***Doxology** (unison) IN DULCI JUBILO, arr. Hare

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all people here below,
Praise the Spirit, evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication/Affirmation of Faith** Westminster Confession of Faith

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God,
did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him the nature of humanity,
with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin:
**being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost,
in the womb of his mother Mary, of her substance;**