



PRELUDE

Variations on Comfort, Comfort Now My People G. Near

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

INTROIT

Come Now, O Prince of Peace OSOSO

CALL TO WORSHIP

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

#152 Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG VÖR HERREN

***INVOCATION AND 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Adapted from churchofscotland.org.uk)

Great Comforter,
our land needs You,
because so many things are done wrongly,
or not done at all.
Our land needs You,
because it is suffering from the way we mistreat
Your world and its people.
Our land needs You,
because without the knowledge of God
there is poverty of spirit.
And we need You.
We inhabit this land, we share in its faults,
we confess the sins and failures
which have harmed others
and harmed ourselves,
and grieved Your Spirit.
Have mercy on us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI** R. Goodson

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and
Ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN ROS'

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

#155 Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:5-25

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON

Rev. Jeremy Keay

***HYMN OF APPROACH**

#154 O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

***The Passing of the Peace**

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty
from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**catholic means the church universal or the church for all time*

The Bread

The Cup

All who seek God and the presence of Christ are welcome to participate

WORDS FOR THE SHARING

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon us, visit us in this season,
we who are in need of your nurture and care, seeking your
blessings on these gifts of bread and wine.

**Many: Let the bread we break be a true fellowship in the
body of Christ.**

**Let the cup we share be a true participation in the new
promises of Jesus.**

One: By your Spirit empower us to be Christ for the world,
**Many: Serving in his name until the earth shall be full of
new creation, trusting our Lord who is making
all things new.**

**All: We gather together today,
around this table and many tables.**

Separated by distance but united by the Spirit of God.

**May you act in us, through us, beyond us, more than we
imagine, because newness is on its way among us. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten

W. Held

***Offertory Response**

So, bring Him incense, gold and myrrh

Come, peasant, king to own Him;

The King of Kings salvation brings.

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

***HYMN FOR THE JOURNEY**

#161 People, Look East

BESAÇON

***THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Benediction**

May the Hope of Jesus Find You

R. Edwards

***The Sending of the Community**

***Congregational Amen**

The service of the church into the world - - begins again this week

***POSTLUDE**

Variations and Carillon on "People, Look East"

M. D. Himmelman

**Please stand, as you are able*

We are grateful for those who serve with us today:

Writing - Allan Effa; Reader - Gordon Dinwoodie;

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams

Offerings of Music in Worship: Joanne Linden, Evelyn Blanchette.

Samuel Hernandez Niebla, Harvey Hiller

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