

PRELUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659* J. S. Bach
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland Andreas Nikolaus Vetter
 ("Now Come, Savior of the World")

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Eckard Family
 One: During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for the Christ's arrival. We remember that God has promised redemption to all who pursue the path of faith.
 All: **This morning, we kindle the flame of peace to remind us to spread peace wherever we are in the world.**
 [The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

God of hope, Prince of Peace, you came into the world in human form as an infant called Emmanuel. Help us live as peacemakers that we may be called children of peace. God of hope, God of peace, come into each heart gathered here. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128) *One Candle Is Lit* (verse 2) CRADLE SONG
**Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
 for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
 Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
 One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**
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†CALL TO WORSHIP Jane Cave
 One: How shall we prepare for the coming of the Christ child?
 All: **With hearts filled with hope.**
 One: How shall we prepare for the coming of our Savior?
 All: **With prayers and songs filled with adoration and devotion.**
 One: How shall we prepare for peace on earth?
 All: **With sincere and spirited worship.**

†HYMN 140 [*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*](#) AURELIA

†OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, send your tender mercy as we seek to understand the depth of your love. Dissolve the shadows in our lives. Release those who are held captive by sorrow and struggle, that they may find hope and peace. Come to us and cleanse us like a refiner's fire, for we long to be purified in body and spirit. We want to be made ready to see the light of your salvation. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM *Prepare Ye the Way* Penny Rodriguez
 The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING Baruch 5:1-9
 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.
 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of [God's] glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134) *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* MCGEE
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.
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SERMON *The Rippling of Rivers* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 119 [*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*](#) VENI EMMANUEL

