##### ORDER OF SERVICE

##### ALL AGE EUCHARIST

##### 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

##### DECEMBER 13th

##### Today our theme is:

##### Showing the Way to Jesus

**We are welcomed to worship**

**We sing our praises to God - We will go**

##### PREPARATION

**Liz welcomes us to the service, and lights the third Advent Candle**

People of God: return!  
You are called to be God’s own.  
From the mountains announce the good news.  
God comes in justice and peace,  
to all who follow his ways.  
You are God’s children.  
**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ, today and for ever.  
Amen.**

**We Greet Each Other in the Lord’s Name**

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| In the name of the Father  and of the Son  and of the Holy Spirit  **Amen**  The Lord be with you |
| **and also with you.** |

**We say sorry to God for the bad things we’ve done and the good things we’ve failed to do**

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,

confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*We keep a moment of quiet*

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all

and your mercy is over all your creation:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name

and speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**We receive God’s forgiveness**

May the God of love bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**We keep a Time of Silence and Pray the Special Prayer for Today**

God for whom we watch and wait,

you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,

to hunger for justice,

and to suffer for the cause of right,

with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**We sing our second song - Siyahamba**

##### We hear from Ali about a time when someone helped her find the way

##### We listen to God’s Word – Juliana, Cheyanne and Kayin read the gospel

A reading from John’s gospel

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’.

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’

And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’

He said, ‘I am not.’

‘Are you the prophet?’

He answered, ‘No.’

Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’

He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord” ’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’

John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*John 1 v 6 – 8, 19 - 28*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**We respond to God’s Word**

**Liz asks, ‘Is it rude to point?’**

**We Say What We Believe:**

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family**

**in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through faith,**

**and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us**

**with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**We offer prayers to God**

Rebecca, Oscar, Valentina, Faith and Jacob pray on our behalf

##### THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**We Share The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high  
shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

We offer one another a sign of peace.

**We Sing Our Praises to God – Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

**We Prepare The Table**

**We Pray The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Question   Why is it right to give thanks and praise?*

*Answer   Listen, and we will hear.*

Lord of all life, you created the universe,

where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away,

you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine

may be for us Christ’s body and his blood.

*Question   Why do we share this bread and wine?*

*Answer   Listen, and we will hear.*

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,

Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,

gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.’

So Father, with this bread and this cup

we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,

and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Question   How do we follow Jesus Christ?*

*Answer   Listen, and we will hear.*

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day

when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Luke and Richard, Thomas and all your saints

we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for

ever. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name**

**Your kingdom come**

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread**

**And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**now and forever Amen.**

We break the bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

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| *President* | Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  whoever eats of this bread will live for ever. |
| *All* | **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;**  **give us this bread always**. |

Invitation to Communion

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| *President* | God’s Holy Gifts for God’s holy people |
|  | **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen** |

*The president receives communion.*

**Communion Music – People, look East by Eleanor Farjeon**

##### Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;

kindle in us the fire of your Spirit

that when your Christ comes again

we may shine as lights before his face;

who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**NOTICES**

##### THE DISMISSAL

**As we draw to the end of our service, Ally, Michael, Judith and Amabel speak about what we can do to lead people to Jesus**

**We go out with God’s blessing**

May God the Son,

who comes to us as redeemer and judge,

reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the lord

In the name of Christ

**Amen**

##### We Sing Our Praises to God – On Jordan’s Banks

*We go out to join in with what God’s doing*