Hearing God’s Call to Become Community

Prelude “One Candle is Lit” # 128
Advent Readers Ashers 8:30am
Damon & Karla Dennis 10:30am
Hymn: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” # 121

Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God. (Repeat)

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn of Gathering “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” # 129
1. Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits! The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer come! We open wide our hearts to you here, Christ, abide! Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.
4. So come, our Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin; your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Seeking God’s Mercy and Pardon

*Responsive Call to Worship 8:30am-Jack Kline / 10:30am-Ashers
“The Peaceful Realm” (see insert) # 126

Proclaiming and Hearing the Word

The Text Philippians 1: 3-11 (NRSV)
Message “Prepare the Way: For the Gospel” Rev. Schwartz

Time for Giving

Call for Our Offerings 8:30am-Jack Kline / 10:30am-Ashers
Doxology “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #46

*Prayer of Dedication

Receiving the Visible and Tangible Signs of God’s Grace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational/Responsive Prayer

Communion Meditation and Invitation 8:30am-& 10:30am Asher’s
The Lord’s Prayer

Communion Hymn: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” # 124

Departing to Serve Where God Leads

Closing Hymn “Go Tell It on the Mountain” # 167

REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. 
2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! Above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. 
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. 

*Benediction Rev. Schwartz

Postlude “Carol of the Bells”
Philippians 1: 3-11  (NRSV)

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L:  These are Words from the Lord

P:  Thanks be to God!