



## The Gathering

### Prelude

### Advent Candle Lighting

...Can you hear it?

#### **What is it?**

God's Word is coming.

**We're listening. We're eager to hear.**

A voice cries out and declares the Promise of Peace.

**We stand in awe.**

Things are going to even out in the world.

**All people will embrace each other.**

Today we light the candle of Peace.

**Our peace comes from God.**

### \*Hymn 87

### Call To Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**We have dwelt in a wilderness of the soul, and we have become used to roughing it. But we grow weak and weary of the journey alone. Forgive our dangerous tendencies toward self-sufficiency. Forgive our inconsistent attempts to follow. Lead us out of the wilderness, now, we pray. Amen.**

### Silent Prayers of Confession

### Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

In whatever wilderness you have found yourself, know that you are not distant from God. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. God is preparing a way for you. Thanks be to God. Amen. Rejoice, and share your joy with each other.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*As you greet one another, feel free to move around the sanctuary welcoming new friends and old*

### Announcements

### Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

-arr. D. Lasky

### \*Hymn 86

### Choir Anthem

### The People Who Walked in Darkness

Prayer request cards collected during this hymn

### He Shall Feed His Flock

-George Frideric Handel/Fran Kenpohl

## The Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

### Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

### Sermon

The Empire Strikes Back

## The Response

### Offering / Offertory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

-arr. R. Lau

### \*Doxology 607

### \*Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

### \*Hymn 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

### Benediction

### Postlude

Wake, Awake!

-J.G. Walther

### Participating in Worship

Rev. Marci Glass - Preaching

Susan Pohl ~ Organist

Claudia Sutherland ~ Choir Director