

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

GREETING THE KING

Welcome and Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Kyle, Michelle & Hannah Meers

Matthew 1:18-23

Scott Kaukonen

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Matthew 2:1-11

Three Kings of Orient

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

Still, Still, Still

Luke 2:1-7

Silent Night

Gesù Bambino

Message

Andrew Barrett

The Arrival of Peace

John 20:19-27 ESV

Time of Reflection

Dani Gathright

Luke 2:8-20

Do You Hear What I Hear?

John 1:1-5, 14-18

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Benediction

Advent Reading

Speaker 1 – Join us in a reading from Isaiah. The wilderness had three roles in Scripture, all of which were God-appointed.

Speaker 2 – In the wilderness, (1) God disciplined His people, (2) God revealed Himself to His people, and (3) God lead His people to the land.

Speaker 1 – In Isaiah's age, the wilderness was fulfilling its disciplinary role. Exile was not an accident but a consequence for Israel's sin and rebellion.

Speaker 2 – But to these desert-dwellers, the prophet has an announcement:

Worshippers – “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like spring flowers; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Speaker 1 – What is the cause for rejoicing? What reason have those in the wilderness for “joy and singing”?

Speaker 2 – Because the wilderness is fulfilling its second role:

Worshippers – “They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the majesty of our God!”

Men – Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance.

Women – with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.

Speaker 1 – God will come! This is our joy! Today therefore we light the candle of Joy, symbolized by the color pink, as a reminder that our joy, the coming of the Lord, is complete in the Advent of Jesus.

Speaker 2 – Joy being experienced in the wilderness is instructive. We are reminded that delighting in Christ transcends circumstance, and that the wilderness with Jesus is more wonderful than gardens without Him.

Speaker 1 – Yet our joy is not just that Christ is born into our wilderness, but that He will lead us out.

Speaker 2 – That is the wilderness' third role: God meets us here in order to lead us to a land of salvation.

Worshippers – [Speaker 2 lights the pink candle while the congregation reads] “And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness... And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Speaker 1 – This is the word of the Lord!

Worshippers – Thanks be to God!

Speaker 2 – You may be seated.