



# PREPARE HIM ROOM

Advent 2022



Advent is a special time of year when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. It's a season of waiting and anticipation, of longing for that great day when all Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled: the wolf will lie down with the lamb and all tears shall be wiped away. It's also a season of clearing space, of making room for Christ's present arrival in our hearts, making margin for mystery. We light candles to remind us of the light of Christ, which grows ever brighter as we approach Christmas.

## PRELUDE

Make Room by Community Music

*And I will make room for You  
To do whatever You want to  
To do whatever You want to*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Father, as we enter this season of Advent we come scattered. It is difficult to focus on the coming of your son Jesus into our lives. We yearn for your presence to not only break into the world, but into our lives.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

At times our hearts feel closed to you.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In the midst of our worries, loneliness, strained relationships, illness, and grief.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In the midst of the hollowness of our consumer society, we find it difficult to share the good news of the coming of Jesus.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

Deliver us from aimless chatter and from fear of silence.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In this season of heightened demands and expectations we yearn for your peace.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In the midst of the frenzy of purchasing gifts, visiting friends and family, and arranging activities.

**Open my heart, O Lord.**

As we find ourselves surrounded by pressures at work or lack of work.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In the midst of a suffering world with so many fleeing and seeking refuge, like Mary & Joseph long ago.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

In the same way that you prepared Mary and Joseph's hearts for the birth of Jesus.

**Open my heart to you, O Lord.**

## COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Charles Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee  
Day-spring from on high, appear.  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to Him your praises bringing  
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end.  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 40:1-10

### Prayed by all:

Loving God,  
give us the desire, the willingness, and the courage  
to be part of your dream for a world made new.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, your dream incarnate.  
Amen.

## COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

Sandra McCracken

*For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait  
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You*

O Lord of life our only hope  
Your radiance shines on all who look  
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come  
Come light our hearts

O joy above all other loves  
In You we find more than enough  
We come as we are O heal and restore  
Come light our hearts

## CHILDREN'S CAROLS & DISMISSAL

Away in a Manger  
Joy to the World

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Mark 1:1-8

*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:*

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—*

*“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”*

*And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

## SERMON

### *Prepare the Way | John*

Pastor Matt Tinken

## PRAYER PRACTICE

Labyrinth Prayer - See next page

### A Pathway of Prayer

- 1.) Ask God to bring to mind a person, concern or a question you want to sit in his presence with. Slowly trace a finger through the labyrinth, focus on letting go of worldly attachments, but carry your person, or question with you as you approach God in the center. Imagine yourself as a pilgrim journeying to God.
  
- 2.) When you arrive at the center, imagine yourself there with God. You may linger in the center of the labyrinth, spending time reflecting on your relationship with God and praying. If you came with a person, concern, or question in mind, bring it to God in prayer and see if you might leave it there with him.
  
- 3.) A time will come when you need to move back out into the world again. Exit the labyrinth through the same path you entered, this time with Jesus walking alongside you. He will be with you as you return refreshed to the relationships, ministries, and vocation God has called you to.

*You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy.  
Psalm 16:11*

*I am the way,  
the truth, and the life.  
John 14:16*

### Discover Chicago's Labyrinths:

1. Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E Chestnut St. *Indoor.*
2. Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N Central Park Ave. *Outdoor.*
3. St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 65 E Huron St. *Outdoor.*
4. St. Scholastica Monastery, 7430 N Ridge Ave. *Outdoor.*
5. Kimball Avenue Church, 3413 W. Medill Ave. *Outdoor.*





## COMMUNION

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

## OPEN SPACE

Housefires

Pull me in closer close to Your heart  
May I be a pure reflection of all You are  
Love that is patient love that is kind  
A love that keeps no offenses or wrongs in mind  
Make me like Jesus (2x)

*My heart is an open space  
For You to come and have Your way  
I'm open I'm open*

You're faithful to find me right where I am  
Even in my wandering You call me friend  
Mercy receives me and lifts me to my feet  
And I'm caught up in the wonder and mystery  
Of knowing Jesus (2x)

Do whatever You want to do  
Say whatever You want to say  
Move however You want to move  
Change whatever You want to change

What are You saying  
Where are You going  
My heart is open wide  
My eyes are open wide

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Matt

Global Outreach Update - The Thar's

## BENEDICTION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

- **Christmas Eve Service:** December 24th, 5pm
- **No Gatherings:** December 25th or January 1st
- **Bring a gift for Breakthrough:** by December 11th
- **Global Outreach Potluck:** December 4th

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DETAILS:

[bit.ly/3VrftL](https://bit.ly/3VrftL)

## COVER ART

*Blessing the Way* by Jan Richardson

