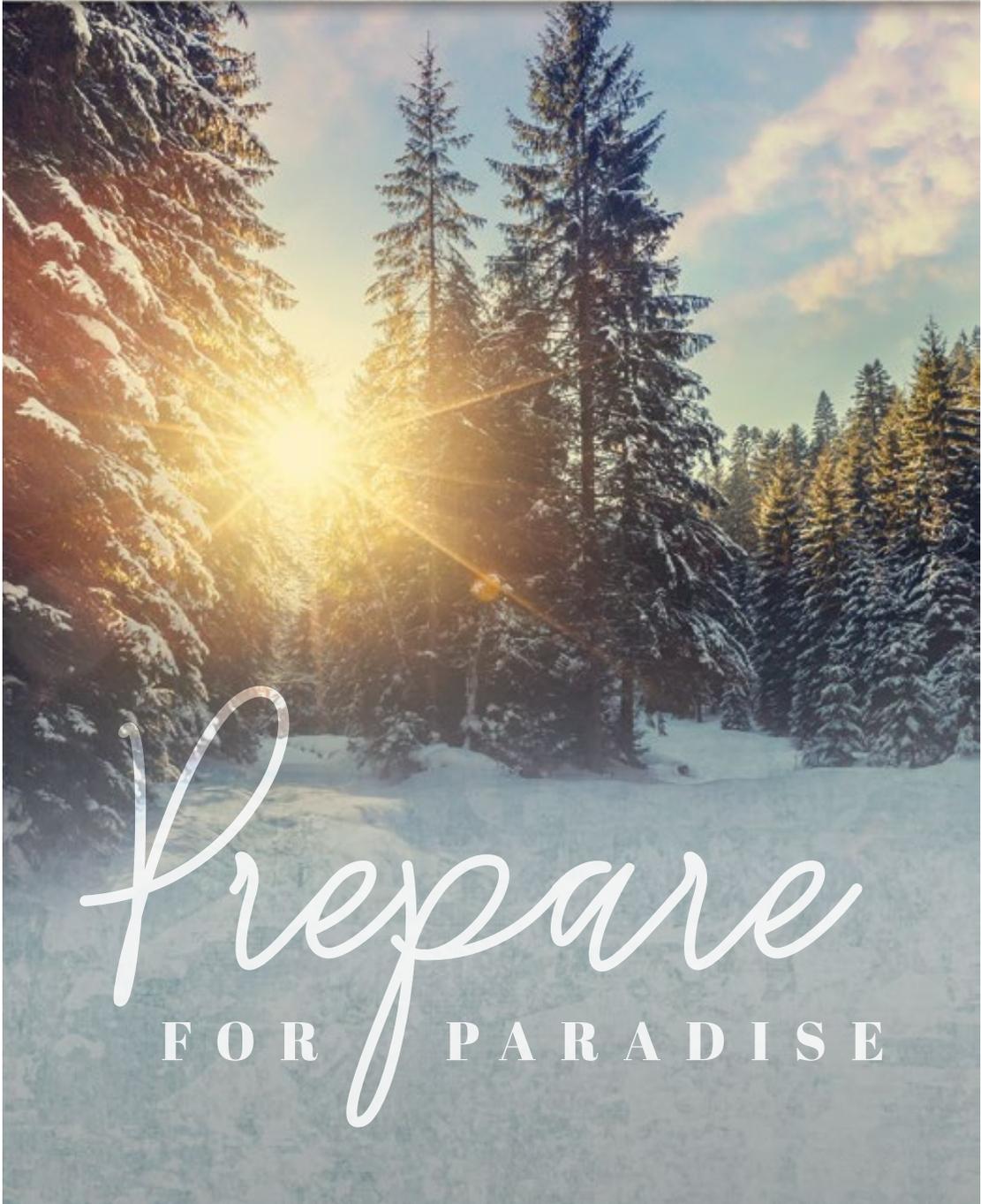


PREPARE YE



*Prepare*  
FOR PARADISE

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# P R E P A R E Y E

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# Prepare

## F O R P A R A D I S E

### Index

Notes/Ordering Information.....	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices .....	6
Order of Service .....	7-11
Complete Script For Worship Leaders .....	12-22
Scripture Readings.....	23-24
Children’s Message .....	25-26
Sermon .....	27-30
Prayers.....	31-32
Music Guide .....	33-40

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# P R E P A R E Y E

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# Prepare FOR PARADISE

## Notes and Ordering Information

This service for Christmas Day celebrates the fact that the Baby Jesus came to dwell with us here on earth this Christmas to point us to the truth that we will one day dwell with him in paradise through his death and resurrection. Hymns in the service include “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and “Let Our Gladness Have No End.” Use with the Prepare Ye series or alone.

*Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code PY19A*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code PY19B*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 14") are available. Code PY19C*

*Call Creative Communications for the Parish at*

*1-800-325-9414 for current prices and availability.*

*Or visit us online at [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com)*

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# P R E P A R E Y E

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# Prepare FOR PARADISE

## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

Join us for Christmas Day to celebrate the fact that the Baby Jesus came to dwell with us here on earth this Christmas to point us to the truth that we will one day dwell with him in paradise through his death and resurrection.

### Bulletin Notice

Merry Christmas! This day we celebrate the fact that the Baby Jesus came to dwell with us here on earth this Christmas to point us to the truth that we will one day dwell with him in paradise through his death and resurrection.

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**P R E P A R E Y E**

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*Prepare*  
**F O R P A R A D I S E**

Order of Service

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

Invocation and Call to Worship

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.

**P** Who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

**C** When the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son.

**P** Born of woman, born under the law.

**C** To redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory.

**C** The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth!

Hymn ..... O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles Irregular meter)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** John writes in our gospel lesson, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5). Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

**C** Forgive us, Lord.

**P** For our sins of the night.

**C** For clinging to the darkness.

**P** For our secret and hidden sins.

**C** For the sins we have done to please ourselves.

**P** For the sins we have done to please others.

**C Forgive those sins which we know.**

**P** And those sins which we do not know.

**C Forgive our sin of apathy.**

**P** Callous indifference.

**C Failure to protest injustice.**

**P** Forgive our sin of greed.

**C Giving only what we can spare. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

**P** Believe and receive the Gospel! Christ was prophesied. Christ was born. Christ was tempted. Christ was arrested. Christ was crucified. Christ was raised. Christ did it all for you—for your redemption and your restoration; for your salvation and your resurrection. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory—

**C The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

Children’s Message

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 52:7-10

Epistle Reading ..... Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading ..... John 1:1-14

Hymn ..... Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, though you've existed forever in a rich, joyful, loving relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit, today we celebrate your coming to us and for us. You are the promised and much-longed-for Christ—the Messiah. Every promise God has made finds its fulfillment—its unequivocal “Yes!” in you. We delight to confess the Word became flesh—

**C** **And dwelt among us!**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, with angels, archangels and all the company of heaven, we rejoice in the day angels sang, shepherds ran and Mary pondered. We exchange gifts and sing and celebrate and pray. Why? The Word became flesh—

**C** **And dwelt among us!**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, we praise you for being born in Bethlehem, the “house of bread,” for we were a famished people—yearning for hope and wholeness, safety, security and salvation. That's why you came as the Bread of Life, and you've brought the feast of the gospel to our souls. We praise you that the Word became flesh—

**C** **And dwelt among us!**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for entering our world in the town of David, Israel's shepherd-king. For what King David could never be, you've become for us—the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep; and now you care for us with relentless tenderness and persistent kindness. That's why we joyfully confess the Word became flesh—

**C** **And dwelt among us!**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, as the King of kings and Lord of lords, you are presently reigning over all things and working in all things, for your glory and our good. Hallelujah! No other kingdom is everlasting but yours; no other King is as loving. Knowing these things to be true, we have a peace which passes all understanding, mercies which cannot be measured, and grace upon grace. Jesus, we pray in your tender and trustworthy name.

**C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn ..... Let Our Gladness Have No End (Narodil Se Kristus Pan 74 74 and refrain)

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!  
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!  
God has sent him as foretold, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.

See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!  
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!  
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.

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# P R E P A R E Y E

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# Prepare

## FOR PARADISE

### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/heavenly-host-the-appearance-of-the-angel-to-the-shepherds-gm853486836-140239981>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor alone or with the congregation at the start of the service or reflected upon silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.

**P** Who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

**C** When the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son.

**P** Born of woman, born under the law.

**C** To redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory.

**C** The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth!

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Adeste Fideles* Irregular meter:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the congregation and the pastor:

**P** John writes in our gospel lesson, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5). Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

**C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**P** For our sins of the night.

**C** **For clinging to the darkness.**

**P** For our secret and hidden sins.

**C** **For the sins we have done to please ourselves.**

**P** For the sins we have done to please others.

**C** **Forgive those sins which we know.**

**P** And those sins which we do not know.

**C** **Forgive our sin of apathy.**

**P** Callous indifference.

**C** **Failure to protest injustice.**

**P** Forgive our sin of greed.

**C** **Giving only what we can spare. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

**P** Believe and receive the Gospel! Christ was prophesied. Christ was born. Christ was tempted. Christ was arrested. Christ was crucified. Christ was raised. Christ did it all for you—for your redemption and your restoration; for your salvation and your resurrection. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory—

**C** **The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

**P** Almighty God, you have shined upon us the marvelous light of your incarnate Word Jesus. Grant that his light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **The Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. —John 1:14

- Ⓟ What are some of your favorite words? How about these? “Merry Christmas!” “This is just what I wanted!” Or, “that looks like the coolest gift ever!”

Words are important. Words help us talk to one another. Words help us communicate with one another.

But there are other ways to let people know what we are thinking or feeling. What would those ways be? We can sometimes tell what someone is thinking or feeling by the expression on their face or the way they walk, the way they sit, or the way they stand. We wave to greet a friend or put up a hand when we want someone to stop. [Demonstrate.]

We also communicate to others by painting a picture, playing music or dancing. These activities allow us to express our sadness, joy or many other feelings.

However, the most common way to share your thoughts and feelings with another person is to use words. We do this when we talk, write a letter, send an email or write a story or a poem.

Words are powerful. Think about how the words “I love you” make you feel.

In John’s gospel we read that “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Jesus is the Word! Jesus came to tell us how much God loves us!

What are some words Jesus uses? “I was born for you. I was betrayed for you. I bled for you. I rose for you. I forgive you—completely. I love you—eternally.”

Those are some powerful words, wouldn’t you say? It is exciting to think of Jesus as being described as the Word. He is the Word and he speaks with words that are powerful and loving. Jesus says, “God loves you—forever!”

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 52:7-10, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

- Ⓟ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Galatians 4:4-7, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 1:1-14, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”