

Order of Worship
Presbytery of Transylvania
December 6, 2008
First Presbyterian Church, Lexington KY

THE GATHERING

**Call to Worship*

Listen –
God invites us to prepare the way.
Watch –
Signs appear in the wilderness.
Prepare –
Good news is on the way.
Rejoice –
Our hard times are over.
Be at peace –
We rest in God's promises, and exult in God's coming.

**Hymn #2*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

**Call to Confession*

**Prayer of Confession*

Eternal God, you promise to reveal your glory to us, but we are inconstant and distracted. You promise your peace, but we do not trust your promise, and we despair.
(silent prayer)

O God, forgive our lack of faith. Sing your songs of good tidings to us from on high. Lift our eyes, give us ears to hear, so that we may sing to the world: Here is our God! Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon*

.....Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel,
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Passing of the Peace*

... The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

**Response – Hymn #13 – Verse 3*

“Prepare the Way”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**Fling side your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

Eternal God, in the reading of scripture, may your Word be heard, in the meditation of our hearts, may your Word be known, in the faithfulness of our lives, may your will be done. Amen.

First Reading

2 Corinthians 5: 17- 6:2

(after each reading: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.)

Second Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

(To be read responsively.)

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

All: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

One: a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

All: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

One: a time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

All: a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

One: a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

All: a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 14-15

Sermon

“The Time of Advent”

**Affirmation of Faith*

Our time is a time of waiting; waiting is its special destiny. And every time is a time of waiting, waiting for the breaking in of eternity. All time runs forward. All time, both history and in personal life, is expectation. Time itself is waiting, waiting not for another time, but for that which is eternal.

- Paul Tillich

THE THANKSGIVING

Prayers of Thanksgiving/Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

THE SENDING

**Hymn #13*

“Prepare the Way”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**Blessing*

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Worship Leaders: Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dean Thompson, President, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Lexington