



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.



Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware), or following us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware).

Today at Westminster

8:45 – 10:00 a.m **Collecting food** for Emmanuel Dining Room – parking lot

8:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Christmas cards and cookie** drop off – parking lot

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Worship**

Anyone over the age of five is required to wear a mask and children must remain with their parents.

Please see page 6 for ways to connect to the events below

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. **CoLABorate Sunday School** for Tweens on Zoom

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180 Youth** on Zoom

- **Bible Box** for children ages 2 through 4th grade is available today on YouTube
- **Educational Offerings for Adults**

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Jay Spilecki, Jane Kline, and Ann Kline by Jerry and Sue Spilecki.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com. Dates available are January 3, 17 and 31.

Recently hospitalized: Oliver Fooks

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by sending an email to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace, by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.

Westminster is certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and being good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.



Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so that our faith comes alive.

ORDER OF WORSHIP- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Meditation on GREENSLEEVES
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, four-hand piano

Joel Raney

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jennifer Barrington and Mark Gerstenschlager and their children, Nate and Lili

Light one candle for joy,
because the world is broken and the wait is long, but our joy cannot be contained.
Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe,
joy pierces our silence with song,
interrupts our sighing with laughter,
unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.
“My soul magnifies the Lord,” she whispers,
“and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior.”
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

The candle is lit.

Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us.
With joy in our hearts, let us worship God.

HYMN NO. 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Vs. 1 & 4

REJOICE, REJOICE

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.	Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.
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ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open our lives to you this season.
As we light these candles, light our lives with your vision for the world.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us peace that is born in justice.
Fill us with joy that cannot be contained, but begs to be shared.
Magnify your love within us,
prepare our lives to be transformed by you,
and fill our soul with Christ-like love
that we might walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

[Click here](#) to watch today's TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN on Westminster's YouTube channel.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord; my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior
and my Lord; I hear a humble voice. Alleluia! Hosanna!

SERMON

“The Magnificat”

Gregory Jones

HYMN NO. 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
VS. 1 & 3

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN NO. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
VS. 1 & 3

GENEVAN 42

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.”

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Canticle of the Turning

Aaron David Miller

*At the conclusion of the Postlude, please exit the sanctuary, row by row, beginning with the last pew to the front pew. Those sitting in the side transepts exit from the front pew to the back pew down the center aisle to the narthex. **Please wait until an usher directs you to leave.** You may want to have a conversation with others you have missed during the lockdown. We ask that you meet them outside, maintaining the required six-foot social distancing, while continuing to wear your mask.*

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ’s call is by giving our financial gifts to further God’s mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking “Donate Now” on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman
Choristers: Hye Eun Choi, soprano; Sharon Babcock, mezzo soprano
Jason Berger, tenor; Brenton Mattox, bass
Ted W. Barr, piano

Videographers: Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Baden Saathoff, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff
Tower Chime: Craig Checkel

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Advent Candle liturgy is adapted from “One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020” by the Rev. Karen Ware Jackson (used with permission). The resources for children attached at the end of the bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

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My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout! Rory Cooney.

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Join Us for In-person Worship in Our Sanctuary

Sunday, December 20, 9:00 a.m.



We have reopened our sanctuary on Sunday mornings for one worship service at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is limited and an online reservation (one per family) is required. When we reach the maximum number of reservations we can host, the reservations will close. We have established a number of guidelines for your safety, which include social distancing, wearing a facial mask/covering, and the use of no-touch sanitizing stations. [Click here](#) to read all of the guidelines. The liturgy will be emailed to you after you make your online reservation.

Congregants are encouraged to print the liturgy from home and bring it to the service or pull it up on your mobile device; a limited number of printed copies will be available. *The decision to attend in-person worship rests with each individual.* A virtual option will continue to be available on our website at www.wpc.org.

To make your online reservation for December 20 worship in the sanctuary, [click here!](#)

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website (www.wpc.org) and check out other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).

Bible Boxes for Children (Age 2 – Grade 4)

Westminster's virtual Sunday school programming continues with Bible Box, a very creative [YouTube series](#) that combines Bible stories, crafts, and music. Materials for the crafts are provided for free. New content uploaded every Sunday. The program runs through December 20. If you have questions about the Bible Box program or would like to sign up to participate in the spring of 2021, please email Alexis Droke at alexisdroke@wpc.org.

CoLABorate Bible Discovery for Tweens (Grades 5 – 8)

TODAY (December 13), 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. on Zoom

Tweens (grades 5-8) are invited to join Mrs. Mary Anne Peters and Mr. Tom Hogue for the fifth and final session of *CoLABorate*. Bring your curiosity, stories, Bible and booklet to share another experience of discovering more about God. Thank you to Mary Ann and Tom for your faithful planning and facilitating all five sessions. Zoom invite for all will be sent by Alexis Droke (alexisdroke@wpc.org).

180 Youth on Zoom! Join us TONIGHT (December 13)

This Sunday is the 180 Christmas party on Zoom! Log on at 6:00 p.m. for festive games and activities! Dress like your Christmas tree and get ready for a great night! See you there! For more information about 180, please contact Tommy Neilson at tommyjneilson@gmail.com.

Online Bible Studies

Wednesday afternoons, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on Zoom (Midweek Manna Bible Study)

<https://zoom.us/j/97700423780?pwd=b1dGL2c4NXRjMIRBOWJWWElsTTg3dz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 977 0042 3780 | Passcode: 547264

In Advent, the Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, will turn to the Gospels and read different accounts of Jesus' birth. We will have a full reading of the Gospel of Matthew in the new year. New faces always welcome!

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941171153?pwd=MmxuZWVREhZSVExS3lveXQvTUhaQT09>

Facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters. Our Bible study continues and new faces are always welcome.

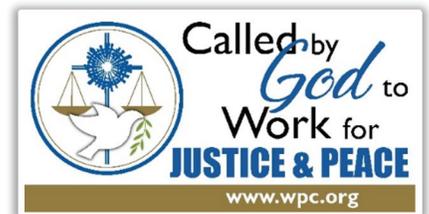
WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events

Status of Re-Entry Programs in Delaware

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027521655>

Re-entry programming has been undergoing changes and there are more changes in the works. Gov. Carney's Delaware Correctional Re-Entry Commission has just completed its two years of work. Come hear Corie Priest (Community Engagement Unit, Delaware Department of Justice) talk about what programming already exists and what we can expect in the future.



Ways You Can Share Love at Christmas

ECHO Giving in the World

ECHO Giving in the World supports nine local and four global missions of our church, from Wilmington food pantries to [egg-laying chickens in Guatemala](#). In this year of insecurity and scarcity, think of those who are homeless or who struggle to get a meal. [Click here](#) for the *Echo Giving* form. Simply make your selection from the shopping list and you have given a meaningful gift, in your loved one's name, to one of God's children in need. The third page of the form is a printable card; simply print, fold and send.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter homeless families, support children and young adults, assist those living with mental illness, and work for justice and peace. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. [Click here](#) for more information on how your gifts will be distributed this year. We have added the 2020 Christmas Offering to the online giving options. From December 1 to December 23, at 4:00 p.m., you can set up a one-time transaction to be deducted from a checking or savings account. Visit our website at www.wpc.org and click "Donate Now" to login or create a new user profile. You will need to select a transaction date of December 15 or December 28. A letter and offering envelope were mailed in early December for those who prefer to give to the Christmas Offering by check.



Christmas at Westminster

Although Christmas at Westminster is very different this year, we hope you will join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in as many ways as you can!

Virtual Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.

With support from the Westminster Choir and our children and youth music program, our annual Christmas caroling will be done virtually this year. A video recording of Christmas carols will be released on Westminster's [YouTube channel](#) on December 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Service of Story and Song – 4:00 p.m. (Virtual Only)

Featuring Westminster's storytellers, youth instrumentalists, and music for handbells, this pre-recorded, informal, and lively service trumpets the joy of Jesus' birth! Join the virtual service and a Zoom watch party. Check the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for more information, or go to our [YouTube channel](#) any time after 4:00 p.m. on December 24 to watch online.

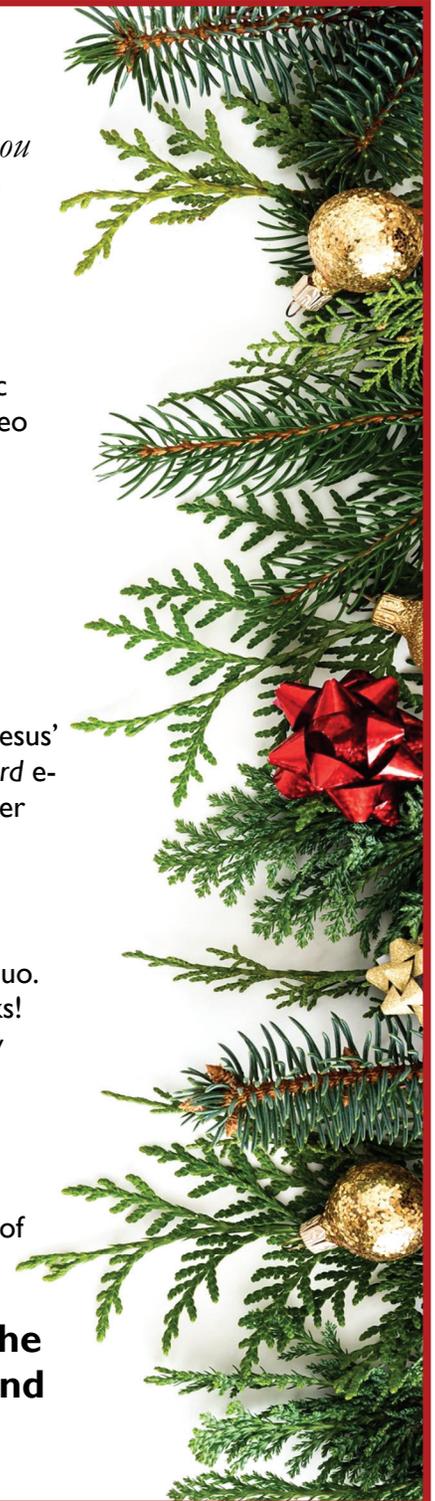
Traditional "Sharing the Light" Service – 8:00 p.m.

This service will be no silent night! An inspiring sermon by Dr. Jones will be framed with Christmas carols sung by our choristers and a four-hand piano duo. For COVID safety reasons, a creative alternative to candlelight is in the works! Join the service in person (reservation required) or online. Check the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for the reservation link to attend in person, or go to our [YouTube channel](#) on December 24 at 8:00 p.m. to watch it livestreamed.

Christmas Concert: Wilmington Handbell Ensemble

Did you miss the handbell Christmas concert on December 12? A recording of the concert is available on our [YouTube channel](#). Check it out!

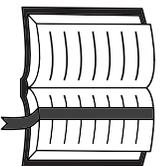
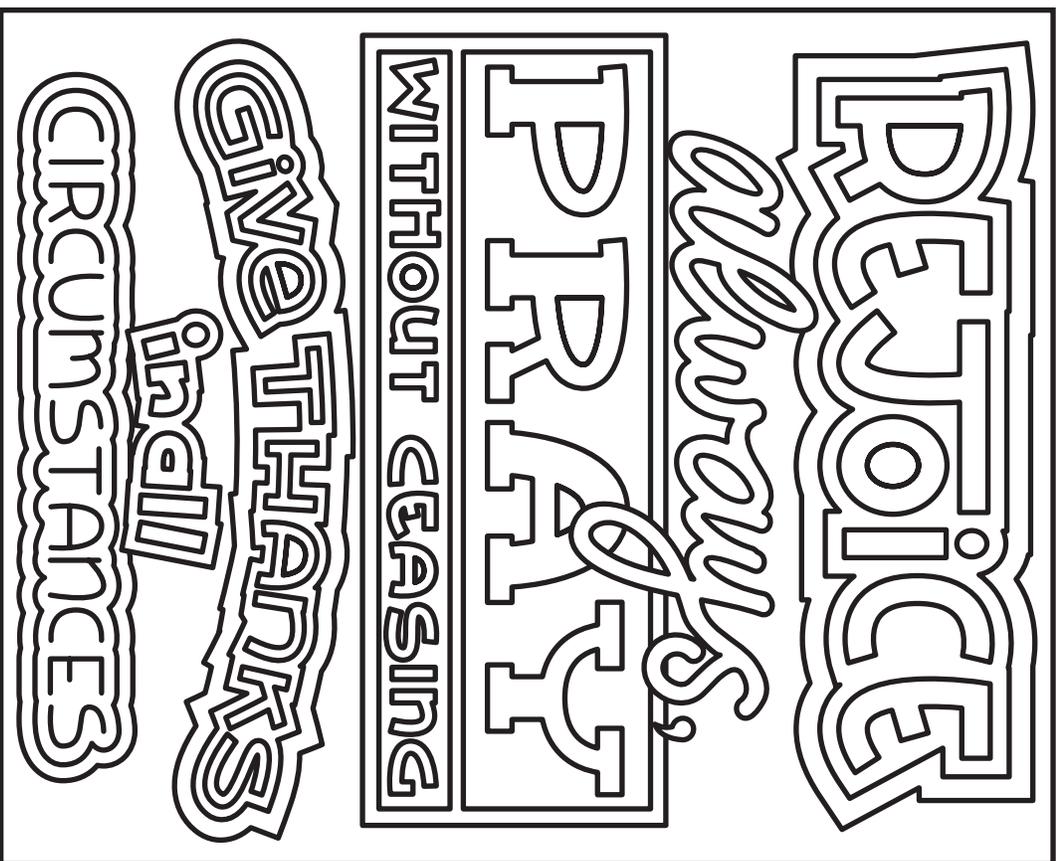
More information on these events can be found in the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter, the *December Chimes*, and on our website at www.wpc.org.



December 27 Worship Service Led by New Castle Presbytery

Ministers in New Castle Presbytery will provide Westminster's online worship service on **Sunday, December 27**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience worship led by others and will be the Christmas gift of a well-deserved break for our staff and videographers. With no in-person worship that Sunday, please go to the "Sunday Worship" box on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org) for the link to this service.

COLOR IN THE WORDS

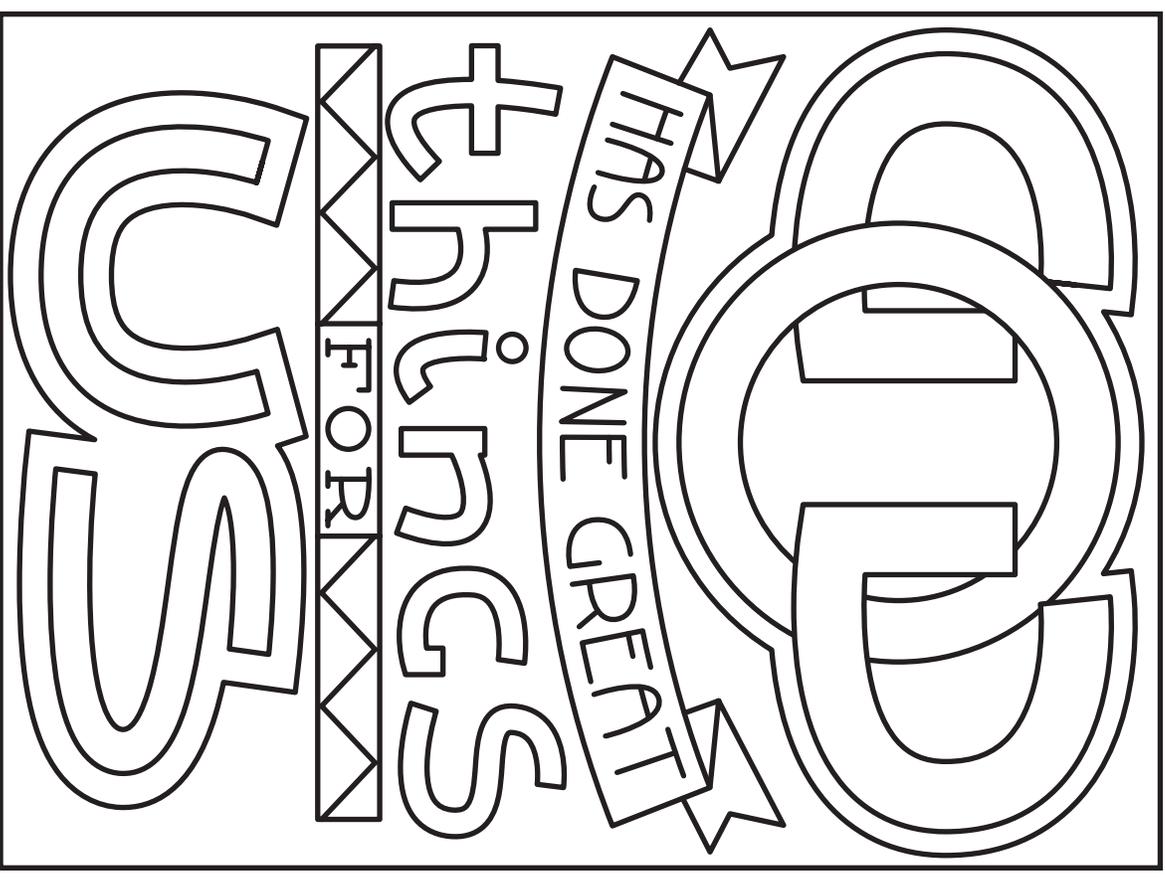


ILLUSTRATED
MINISTRY

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CHILDREN'S
WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 6:1-14, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,
John 1:6-8, 19-28.





DRAW IT

In John 1, we meet John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. He described himself as a “voice crying out in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord!’” Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to “prepare the way” for Jesus.

UNSCRAMBLE IT

What does Isaiah say he has been called by God to do? These same words will later be repeated by Jesus! Unscramble the words to find out!

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OGOD SWNE OT HET SREEDPOPS,

OT DNBI PU EHT

ROKTENHEABRDE, TO

CLIPRAMO BERTYL OT

TEH SCAPVETI, DAN OT

SEALREE SONPRISRE.