



**We have been washed in waters of grace, but we do not trust the depth of your love.  
Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us, guide us, and call us to try again. Amen.**

**\*Words of Grace**

...In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**\*Gloria Hymn #113 chorus**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**The Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20**

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The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Chat**

Rita Boyer, Certified Christian Educator

**Second Reading Luke 3:7-18**

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The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*Welcome Hope: Taking Root*

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

**\*Hymn # 71 Surely It Is God Who Saves Me**

**Refrain:**

**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.**

**1. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation  
and on that day you shall say,  
"Give thanks to the Lord  
and call upon God's name."  
(Refrain)**

**2. Make God's deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that the Lord is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord,  
for God has done great things  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Refrain:**

**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.**

**3. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion;  
ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you  
is the Holy One of Israel.  
(Refrain)**

**\*Affirmation of Faith -Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People- Guided Meditation**

***THANKSGIVING***

**Offering**

Musical Offering      “Can You See the Light in Bethlehem?”  
Arr. Joseph Graham and David Angerman  
Chancel Choir

**\*Praise God (Hymn #608)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*SENDING*

**Sending the Church into Mission**

The Mission of Prospect Church

**To be a family in Christ reaching out to all with love, prayer, and service. Through worship, education, mission, and fellowship, we experience God's love, forgiveness, grace, and call.**

**\*Hymn # 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!**

**He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

**\*Benediction and Congregational Response**

**Hymn # 109 Blest be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah) v. 1**

**1. Blest be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us,  
who grants us liberty.**

**The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise  
and bring the people peace.**

**Postlude- *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light***

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
To herald our salvation;  
God stops to earth – the God of might,  
Our hope and expectation.

Arr. Cindy Berry

Jesus come in human flesh to dwell,  
Our God with us, Immortal;  
The night of darkness ending,  
our fallen race befriending.