

St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Click **HERE** to read the bulletin in a new window

St. Gertrude Mass times are:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am
- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (10:30 Mass is live-streamed on our parish Facebook page)

Registration is now open for in-person attendance for:

- Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm
- Christmas Masses Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, Christmas Day at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
- New Year's Masses New Year's Eve at 5:00 pm and New Year's Day at 10:30 am

The St. Gertrude parish office is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am-2:30 pm and 8:30-11:30 am on Sunday. Please review <u>Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory</u>. Please call before you come!

Click Here to Sign up for Weekday Masses

Click Here to Sign-up for Christmas Masses

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From Father Rich

Advent Reconciliation Service: Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm

Our parish Advent Reconciliation Service is this Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm in church. This service will not be live-streamed.

This is a reflective service in which absolution will be given. We will be following the pandemic protocols and maintaining social distance.

Please make your reservation HERE.

Bulletin for the Third Sunday of Advent

12/13



Renew My Church Decision Announced Next Friday, December 18!

Next week, we hear the decision of Cardinal Cupich on the future make up of our grouping of parishes: St. Jerome, St. Ignatius, and St.

Gertrude. Everyone is invited to be part of a virtual session at which Bishop Bartosic will announce and explain the decision. This virtual meeting is next Friday, December 18 at 7:00 pm. Please go

to <u>www.renewmychurch.org/announcements</u> for details about how to access the meeting from your computer or smartphone.

Third Sunday of Advent

This Sunday we hear again from John the Baptist as he responds to the emissaries sent by the religious leaders to find out who he is. Clearly, his message from the desert has already reached their ears! As we know, John's telling truth to power would end up costing him his life.

It is never easy to stand up and tell the truth when all around you people are doing something else. Our current example might well be some members of the media who continue to be clear that the President is lying when he speaks about rigged elections, and so on. And, as in John's time, many of the powerful either support the falsehoods or remain silent.

What do we bump into in our own lives -- at home, at work, among friends -- that calls out for truth-telling? Do we remain silent when others speak words of bigotry, prejudice, and other harmful speech? Do we stand up for others when they are being belittled or bullied? Telling the truth, especially speaking truth to power, is never easy, but always the way we stay positively connected to God and one another. That is why one of the most important "titles" Jesus ever embraced was when he said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live, even if he dies." Let us continue our Advent journey on the way to that truth found fully in Christ, our Lord!

Special Collection for Religious Retirement -- December 13

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection helps fund the health care and retirement for sisters, brothers, and priests from religious communities (e.g. Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Nazareth, etc.). Please be generous in helping care for those who lived their lives in service to all of us.

Christmas Giving Tree

Please help our neighbors who rely on Care for Real and help the refugees sponsored through our parish's Refugee Ministry by participating in this year's Giving Tree. Because of the pandemic, all gifts are gift cards. Please check the flyer in church or the article in this newsletter for more information. All the gift cards need to be turned in either in church at the Giving Tree table or by dropping them off/mailing them to the Rectory no later than this Wednesday, December 16.

Christmas Schedule: Make Your Reservation for Christmas Masses

On Christmas Eve, we will have Mass at 5:00 pm in church. This mass will also be live-streamed. On Christmas Day, we will have Masses at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. The 10:30 am Mass will also be live-streamed. (Please note, there is no Mass or Communion Service on Christmas Eve morning, Thursday, December 24.)

Our online reservation system is now available for Christmas Masses. I encourage you to make your reservation as soon as you can. If reservations indicate the need for additional Masses, they will be added as soon as we can determine whether we need additional Christmas Eve Masses or

additional Christmas Day Masses. Thank you for making your reservation as soon as you are able. Please make your reservation **HERE**.

St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021

Elsewhere in today's parish newsletter is another announcement about a new major fundraiser for St. Gertrude Parish. Although we have been fortunate that so many of our parishioners have continued to make their weekly offertory contributions, our revenues have been at about 75% of our pre-pandemic Sunday offertory income. We have been relying on our parish savings to make up the difference, but that cannot go on much longer.

St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021 is a new major parish fundraiser to help us bring new income into the parish so we can get closer to balancing the budget. Please read the weekly articles in the newsletter and consider adding your own ideas on what would make great auction items -- and consider what you might be able to donate to make Auction 2021 a success and joining the volunteers who will make this all possible!



Growing in Faith

"Rejoice Always!" - Thessalonians 5: 16-24

On the third Sunday of Advent, we are called upon to fill our souls with joy as we anticipate the coming of the Lord. *Joy, Joie. Gioia. Freude. Allegria*: No matter the language, it is a human emotion we all feel and understand. It uplifts our very being and floods our consciousness with unbearable happiness. In our lifetime, we feel bits of joy in so many ways:

While still in the womb, the sound of the loving voices of our family; shortly after our birth in the warm feel of our mother's body as we take nourishment and in our mother's lullaby as we fight off sleep; as toddlers at play in a field of grass chasing butterflies or lightning bugs; as a little leaguer hitting a home run to win the game.

As we grow older, joy may become harder to experience for many of us, as the realities and hardships of life press upon us but there are many moments of joy for us, even as adults:

A piece of music or song or poem that penetrates our soul; when we feel the deep love of a soul mate and life partner; when we gaze into the eyes of our newborn child; when we overcome a very difficult and painful disease, experience, or tragedy. Joy uplifts us, it opens up our senses, our minds, and our souls.

Over the last year, the world has experienced a nightmarish pandemic but as we get closer to a vaccine, we can anticipate the joy of overcoming it.

All these experiences of joy are the sounds that explode into the joyous symphony we feel at the coming of our Lord.

~ Silvio Anichini for *Growing in Faith*



Our Advent Reconciliation Service is This Sunday, December 13

What do I need to talk to God about? Where do I need forgiveness? Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be held this Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm in Church.

Please join us as we spend about 45 minutes in reflective prayer, an examination of conscience, and the forgiveness of our sins. It's a great way to get ready for the celebration of Christmas! Register to attend in person HERE. This service will not be live-streamed.



St. Gertrude's Giving Tree Program: Donate Gifts Cards This Year - Deadline is Wednesday, December 16

This Advent, St. Gertrude Parish's Giving Tree will once again support people in need in our community this Christmas season. Due to the pandemic, our entire collection of gifts will consist of gift cards.

We will be collecting gift cards for Care for Real and the families sponsored by our Refugee Ministry. The gift cards may be brought to church or dropped off/mailed to the Rectory, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660. (Even if the Rectory office is closed, you can always put mail through the mail slot in the side (west) red door next to the Rectory side yard.

Please be sure all gift cards are delivered by Wednesday, December 16. You can note if you prefer your donations to go to Care for Real or the families sponsored by Refugee Ministry.

Care for Real

Care for Real is requesting that all gifts for their families be in increments of \$20 gift cards from Target. Below is a list of gift ideas that an individual or family might be able to purchase with the gift cards you donate.

One or Two \$20 Gift Cards from Target Could Purchase:

- A toy, board game, or sports equipment for a child
- Books, pajamas, or art supplies for a teen
- Hats, scarfs, and gloves for a child, teen, or adult
- Diapers or baby food for a baby
- Toiletries for a man or woman
- Holiday treats for a family or an individual

Three \$20 Gift Cards from Target Could Purchase:

- A coat or boots for a child
- · Clothes for an adult or teen
- Toiletries for a family
- Pantry items for a family or an individual

Four \$20 Gift Cards from Target Could Purchase:

- Shoes or boots for a teen or an adult
- A winter coat for a teen or an adult

Five \$20 Gift Cards from Target Could Purchase:

- An interview/work outfit for an adult
- Groceries for a family

You might also wish to contribute one, two, three, four, or five \$20 gift cards from Target for any unspecified items which are most needed at this time.

St. Gertrude Parish Refugee Ministry

We are also collecting gift cards for the refugee families sponsored by St. Gertrude Parish. For these families, we are requesting gift cards from Target and Jewel for gift items, household needs, and groceries.

Our Parish Goal for Donations for our Refugee Families is to Collect:

- Ten \$25 gift cards from Target
- Eight \$50 gift cards from Target
- Four \$75 gift cards from Target

- Ten \$25 gift cards from Jewel
- Eight \$50 gift cards from Jewel
- Four \$75 gift cards from Jewel

Thank You!

Your contributions are most appreciated! Participation in our St. Gertrude Parish Giving Tree is a blessing for all, gift givers and receivers, in this holy season of Advent, and makes the lives of all those who are touched truly filled with Christmas joy!

A flyer is available **HERE**.





Thank You for Supporting our Parish's Annual Balsam Pine Sale

Our annual Balsam Pine Sale was a success! Last Friday, we sold out of our entire inventory of trees and garland, as well as our 18", 24", and 36" wreaths.

We are so grateful to Steve Peavler, Mike Tentler, Art Blumberg, and Robert Clarke, who organized this sale, their amazing volunteer delivery team, and the supporters of our balsam pine sale! The team made \$3,413.50 in revenue for the parish, with 106 individual deliveries made over two weekends! We truly appreciate their great work!



Second Collection This Weekend, December 12-13 for Retired Religious

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the weekend of December 13-14, 2020, our parishes will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits some 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

In his letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul urges us to remain steadfast in helping others: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up" (Gal 6:9). During these unprecedented times, many are hurting and need our assistance, including elderly religious. As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, I encourage your continued support.

As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. If you are unable to give during Mass, please mail your offertory envelope to your parish or donate through your parish's online giving platform, if available. You can also send your contributions to:

National Religious Retirement Office

3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Please make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God's protection for all our elderly religious. Second, please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection as you are able—and know that women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



Sign-up to Attend Christmas Masses with a Musical Prelude/New Year's Masses

This year, we will have a family Mass on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. On Christmas Day, we will have an 8:00 am Mass and a 10:30 am Mass. Please sign up to attend in person HERE.

We will live-stream the 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve and the 10:30 am

Mass on Christmas Day on our <u>parish Facebook page</u>. After these services are over, they will be posted on <u>our parish's YouTube channel</u>.

If you plan to attend Christmas services in person or watch the live-stream, please consider coming ten minutes early as there will be instrumental arrangements of popular Christmas carols. We will have professional trumpeter, Scott Baker, at all three Masses (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) and fellow parishioners, Jim Szmurlo (trumpet), and Nicholas Bussey (trombone) will join him at the 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve and the 10:30 am Mass on Christmas Day.

On New Year's Eve, we will have Mass at 5:00 pm and on New Year's Day, Mass will be held at 10:30 am. Register <u>HERE</u> to attend in-person. The 10:30 am New Year's Day service will be <u>live-streamed</u>.



St. Gertrude's Virtual Auction -Fundraiser Scheduled for February 2021!

St. Gertrude parish will host a virtual auction in February 2021 which will serve as our major fundraiser. We are planning to offer all sorts of items with lots of fun and interesting categories - and we need your help.

We are currently looking for volunteers to solicit donated items and services. Solicitation can be done by phone, email, or personal contact. If this sounds like something you can do, please email us at **auction21@stgertrucechicago.org**.



St. Gertrude Refugee Ministry Holiday Pattern Masks

Khadija, the single mother of two we've sponsored since she arrived from the Central African Republic, is a gifted seamstress. At present Kadidja has committed to creating 30 masks per week. The cloth masks cost \$5 each. Please place your orders here: Holiday Pattern Masks by Kadidja.

Payment can be made via Zelle (audraeisin2@hotmail.com), or Venmo (TogetherWeAreStrong), or if needed by check, (payable to Audra Eisin.)

You will be called or texted when your masks are ready to arrange to pick them up. Please indicate in the comment section of the above apps/your check how you want to be contacted when placing your order.

If you would like some tech support, please contact Pam Horan-Bussey at 773.315.3290.



System Glitch with In-Person Mass Registration: Please Double-Check You are Still Signed Up for Masses in December and January

Due to a system glitch, the registration lists from several Masses were inadvertently deleted. If you signed up to attend any Masses in December and January, please double-check our SignUpGenius lists to confirm your name is still on the list.

- Check <u>HERE</u> to confirm you are signed up for weekend Masses!
- Check <u>HERE</u> to confirm you are signed up for 7:30 am weekday Masses.

We apologize for the inconvenience.



Religious Ed Update

Advent has been a recurrent topic in our Religious Ed classes over the past two weeks. Most of our classes discussed Christmas and the true meaning of this holy time.

Our Religious Ed community is also been invited to attend or view our Christmas Masses and take part in our parish Giving Tree. Our seventh and eighth-grade parents were also asked to pick up bibles ordered for their children at the Rectory during the Rectory's office hours.

Our next break will be over Christmas, with no classes on December 22, December 29, and January 5.



Remembrance Altar Items Can be Picked Up in the Rectory

Thank you for sharing images and memories of your special someone with us during the month of November. If you have not yet picked up your photo or memento, please collect them at the Rectory.

The parish office is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am-2:30 pm and 8:30-11:30 am on Sunday. Here are our <u>Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory</u>. **Please call before you come!**



Pickup Your Breaking Bread Hymnal Order/Purchase Ones at the Rectory

Parishioners who purchased Breaking Bread hymnals are asked to pick them up after Mass from Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, or collect them at the Rectory during office hours.

Missals are still being sold at a discounted rate of \$7.00 per hymnal and are available only at the Rectory. Checks and cash are accepted. Please have the exact amount ready as no change is available.

Please note, while you may bring your personal missal to St. Gertrude, you MUST bring it back home. Any missals left in the church will be discarded.

Contact Mary Clare Barker with any questions at 773.764.3621, ext 22 or mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.



Readings for Sunday, December 13

Reading 1: 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Reading 2: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light,

but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests

and Levites to him

to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it,

but admitted, "I am not the Christ."

So they asked him,

"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

So they said to him,

"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?

What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,

'make straight the way of the Lord,"

as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him,

"Why then do you baptize

if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them.

"I baptize with water;

but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,

the one who is coming after me,

whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,

where John was baptizing.



Rest in Peace

Amie Leagans, daughter of parishioner June Gruner



Additional Parish Information Found on our Website

List of info/articles

- Mass Schedule/Links to Sign up for Mass
- Video of What to Expect When Returning to Church
- Parishioner Guidelines for Attending Mass in Church
- What to Expect/Do in Church (photos w/captions)
- Volunteers Needed to Help with Mass
- Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory
- Meetings at St. Gertrude
- Volunteer Sign-up Form



Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Set-up/Greeters/Clean-up Teams, Musicians, and Music Planned for This Weekend

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet for use at home with lyrics for music for our live-streamed 10:30 am Mass this Sunday at 10:30 am **HERE**.

This weekend, our cantors and musicians will be:

- Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm Denise Goodman
- Sunday, December 13 at 8:00 am TBA
- Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am Michael Callahan; Jay Lamble, guitar

Please note, we ask that those attending Mass in person do not sing due to concerns that singing may spread germs further than six feet.

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm Kathy Wall
- Sunday, December 13 at 8:00 am Peter Morin
- Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am Bob Backis

Our readers this weekend are:

- Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm Troy McMillian
- Sunday, December 13 at 8:00 am Victoria Healy
- Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am Debra Novak

Our set-up/greeter team this weekend is:

 Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm - Debra Kern, Carol Ann Munro, Michelle Kuehlhorn

- Sunday, December 13 at 8:00 am Barb Daly, Peter Morin, Marty McDermott, Brigid Cronin, Mark Kollar
- Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am Michael Kowalsky, Patrick Robinson, Dorothea Tobin, Nancy Kuhn

Our clean-up team this weekend is:

- Saturday, December 12 at 5:00 pm TBD
- Sunday, December 13 at 8:00 am TBD
- Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am TBD

We still need other volunteers to fill teams for greeting/set-up and clean-up. For safety reasons, volunteers should be between 18-64 years of age and not have conditions that would put them at risk for negative outcomes from COVID-19 infection (immunosuppressive therapy, heart or lung disease, cancer, etc.)

If you would like to participate on a team, please <u>download this form</u> and email it to Kevin Chears at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org and include your preferred e-mail and telephone number.



Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, Archdiocese Link, and Amazon Smile

Visit <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and select St Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners

are welcome to text the word **Donate** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via phone.

The Archdiocese has <u>an online giving option via the Archdiocesan website</u>. You simply click on the link and it takes you to the website. Once there, you determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

To access our PayPal link, please visit <u>our parish website</u> and donate from there. <u>GiveCentral</u> offers parishioners the option of one-time gifts or weekly contributions.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities, at ablumberg@stgertrudechicago.org. He will be happy to help in any way he can.

Click here to go to GiveCentral

Click here for PayPal (via our website)

Donate via the Archdiocese website



Daily Scripture Readings

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses **HERE**. (Scroll down the webpage to see the readings.)

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Monday, December 14: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17 **Friday, December 18:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25 **Saturday, December 19:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday, December 20: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 14: 7:30 am - Eileen Quinlan+

Tuesday, December 15: 7:30 am - Jacqueline Elwood+

Wednesday, December 16: 7:30 am - Pat Veccie+

Thursday, December 17: 7:30 am - Communion Service

Friday, December 18: 7:30 am - For the intention of Tony Philbin

Saturday, December 19: 7:30 am - Isabelle & Joseph Laczkowski+; 5:00

pm - Richard Cenar, Sr.+

Sunday, December 20: 8:00 am - Peter+ & Mary+ Tunney; 10:30 am -

Pedro & Consuelo Viray+

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Ester Bugler
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Lois DiFruscio
- Sara Fighter
- Lucia Hall
- · Gina Heidkamp

- Maria Hertl
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Karey Myers
- Robert Howe
- Mickey Resch
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Ruth Timmons
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Norma E. Viray



Hymnal Info & Lyrics for December 13, 2020

Hymns:

- Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, #38
- After the lighting of Advent Wreath: Rejoice, Rejoice...(chorus to O Come Emmanuel)
- Responsorial Psalm: #85 Lord, Let us See your Kindness (GIA setting)
- Gospel Acclamation: Advent Alleluia by Michael Joncas (GIA)
- Offertory: Christ Be Our Light
- Mass Parts: Missa Emmanuel
- Communion: A Voice Cries out, #44
- Recessional: Prepare Ye (from Godspell)

Lyrics:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, chant

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Psalm 85: Lord, let us see your kindness by Marty Haugen

Christ Be Our Light by Bernadette Farrell

Christ be our light, shine in our hearts shine through the darkness. Christ be our light, shine in your church gathered today.

A Voice Cries Out by Christopher Walker,

Refrain: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare a way for the Lord!"

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Make straight a highway for God!"

Prepare Ye (from Godspell) by Stephen Schwartz

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

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