

MANHATTAN BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE “How Brightly Beams the Morning Star” Nicolai, arr. Wilson
Jean Whitcomb, Organist

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mike Spitters
Senior Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS Joanne Ordinario

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING MEDITATION Bill, Jodi and Wilson Ryan

Leader One: Today we light the second candle of Advent – the Candle of Peace. A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight God’s paths.” John the Baptist calls us to repentance, to turn away from what divides us, and to open our hearts to God’s peace.

Leader Two: As we light this candle, we remember that peace is not only the absence of conflict, but the presence of God’s justice, mercy, and love in our lives.

Leader Three: May this light remind us to smooth the rough places in our hearts, to forgive, to hope, and to act for peace in our homes, our community, and our world.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, bring your peace to our hearts and to the earth. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 129, “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”
(verses 1, 2 & 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP Jill Jones

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Congregation: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make God’s paths straight!

Leader: In the wilderness, in the busy places, in the quiet of our hearts,

Congregation: God’s Spirit calls us to turn, to repent, to hope.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts, smooth the rough paths, and prepare to receive the One who brings peace and salvation.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER Jill Jones

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: “Ding Dong Merrily on High” Patterson
Kate Crellin, director; Stephen Pitters, accompanist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER Joanne Ordinario
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” arr. Joel Raney
Pam Conde, flute; Stephen Pitters, piano

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:1-12 (pg. 784) Jill Jones

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Clearing the Way” by Mike Spitters
John Elg and Mike Spitters, guitar and vocals; Stephen Pitters, piano

SERMON “Clearing the Way”
Pastor Mike

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Jill Jones



To give online, scan here

OFFERTORY French Noel, “Quittez Pasteurs” Leon Rogues; arr. Spong

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE
We give thee but thine own, what e’re the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

OFFERING PRAYER Jill Jones

COMMUNION INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Pastor Mike
Organ Selection: “Gesù Bambino” (The Infant Jesus) Pietro A. Yon

CLOSING HYMN 153, “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (verses 1, 2 & 4)

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION Pastor Mike

One: God be in my head

All: and in my thinking.

One: God be in my eyes

All: and in my seeing.

One: God be in my hands

All: and in my serving.

One: God be in my heart

All: and in my loving.

POSTLUDE “Let Us Adore Him” (Adeste Fideles) arr. R. R. Perry