



wilderness and deserts shall bring forth beauty. Open our eyes to see your promises. Open our ears to hear the good news of your love for all your children. Quench our thirst with showers of your love for us. Through Christ we pray. Amen. *(Silent prayer and reflection)*

## **Words of Assurance**

Leader: Friends, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gloria Patri #734**

*"Glory Be to the Father"*

**Psalter Reading**

Psalm 146: 5-10

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Time with the Children**

Grayson Palmore

(\* After the Children's Message, children ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome to go to our Infant/Toddler Nursery. )

**Anthem**

*Echo Noel*

Kosmitis/Wilson

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 35: 1-10

James 5: 7-10

Pew Bible p. 663 Old Testament

Pew Bible p. 231 New Testament

**Sermon Series  
Message**

A Geography of Salvation  
"A Desert in Bloom"

Marcy Wright

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Reception of New Member**

**\*Hymn of Response # 218**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

\* **Affirmation of Faith** (back of bulletin)

## Offering

*(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads during this time)*

**Offertory**                      *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*                      arr. Kaiser

\***The Doxology** #44                      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\***Prayer of Dedication**

\***Closing Hymn** # 179                      *Joy to the World!*

\***Benediction**

\***Postlude**                      *Good King Wenceslas*                      arr. Fedak

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\* Those who are able, please stand.

Hearing assistance devices are available for anyone who needs them.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.

His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.

He was the fulfillment

of God's promise to Israel,

the beginning of the new creation,

and the pioneer of the new humanity.

He gave history its meaning and direction

and called the church to be his servant

for the reconciliation of the world.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967