



redeemer

a newsletter for and about the people of
lutheran church of our redeemer

record

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pastor's message

George Friderick Handel wrote the monumental oratorio, *Messiah*, in the late summer of 1741. This great work was completed in only 24 days and stands as one of the most renowned pieces of English sacred music. It is performed every year in many major cities around the world. The piece was a favorite of Handel's and he suggested it was the result of inspiration when he once said, ***"I think I did see all heaven before me and the great God Himself."***

The opening tenor recitative and air are taken from the prophet Isaiah:

***"Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make His path straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted
and every mountain and hill made low,
The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.
All the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."***

These wonderful words are read in our worship during Advent. They are words that call us to prepare for the coming of our salvation.

Messiah was written at a real low point in Handel's career. He had seen his last two operas judged as failures. In fact, when *Messiah* was first performed in a Dublin concert hall it was not even considered a success. Some even maintained that singing the words of Holy Scripture in a concert hall was inappropriate and in bad taste.

The season of Advent not only tells us to make preparation in our lives, but also points us toward the incomparable joy of Christmas when we are all called to sing:

***"For unto us a child is born.
For unto us a child is given.
And the government shall be upon His shoulders
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace." (also in Isaiah by the way)***

Then, on the Holy night, we will at last sing, ***"HALLELUJAH"*** from the depths of our hearts.

My hopes and prayers are that you may have a truly Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Hallelujah!
Leigh Pezet, Pastor