

# Worship Service 14 Dec 2025

## Readings

Isaiah 35.1-10  
James 5. 7-10  
Matthew 11. 2-11

### Isaiah 35 New International Version Joy of the Redeemed

#### 35

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, **2** it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

#### 3

Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;

#### 4

say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

#### 5

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

#### 6

Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

#### 7

The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

#### 8

And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

**9**

No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,

**10**

and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

### **James 5:7-10**

#### **New International Version**

#### **Patience in Suffering**

**7** Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. **8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **9** Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

**10** Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **Matthew 11:2-11**

#### **New International Version**

**2** When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples **3** to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

**4** Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **5** The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. **6** Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

**7** As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? **8** If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. **9** Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

**11** Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.