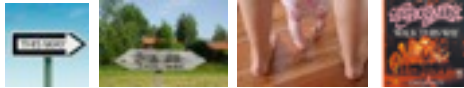


**15 December 2013 – Third Sunday of Advent. Readings:** Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 146:5–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.

**Theme:** *Walk this way* – **Isaiah 35:8**, “And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way/walk this way(NIV’84).”



**INTRO:** "Walk this way" is a recurrent pun in a number of movies and television shows, most notably movies by Mel Brooks. It may be derived from an old vaudeville joke. It refers to the double usage of "way" in English as both a *direction* and a *manner*. One version of the old joke goes like this: A heavy-set woman goes into a drug store and asks for talcum powder. The bowlegged clerk says, "Walk this way," and the woman answers, "If I could walk that way I would not need talcum powder!" I want to reclaim idea from Mel Brooks, Aerosmith, and others. The Bible teaches us to walk *this* direction and manner...



## **I. THROUGH THE DESERT.**

**Isaiah 35:1**, “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.”

**Matthew 11:2-3**, “When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

**Question:** “Why?”

**1 Peter 4:12**, “Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

**Luke 4:1**, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit **into the wilderness.**”

**Illus.** Vicarage in Toronto. Driving from Grand Rapids, Michigan.



## II. INTO CHANGE.



### A. DEATH TO LIFE.

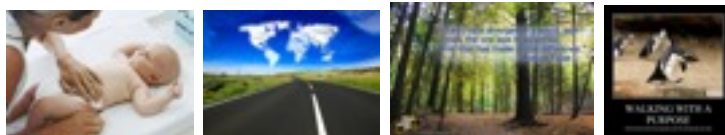
**Isaiah 35:9-10**, “only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued.”

**Romans 6:3-4**, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death **in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**”

**John 3:5-7**, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, **‘You must be born again.’**”

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **The old has gone, the new is here!**”

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, *“And I can't change, Even if I tried, Even if I wanted to, And I can't change, Even if I tried, Even if I wanted to... No law's gonna change us; We have to change us... Love is patient (not crying on Sundays); Love is kind (not crying on Sundays).”*



### B. BEING CHANGED.

**Isaiah 35:8**, “And a highway will be there; it will be called the **Way of Holiness**; it will be for those who **walk on that/this Way.**”

**Matthew 7:14**, “But small is the gate **and narrow the road** that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

**John 14:6**, “Jesus answered, **‘I am the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

**2 Corinthians 3:18**, “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, **are being transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, “Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually

immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And **that is what some of you were. But** you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

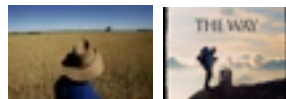


### III. WITH EVERLASTING JOY.

**Isaiah 35:1-2**, “The desert and the parched land **will be glad**; the wilderness **will rejoice** and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it **will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.**”

**Isaiah 35:6**, “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.”

**Isaiah 35:10**, “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.”



**CONCLUSION: James 5:7**, “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.” **Isaiah 40:31**, “Yet those who **wait** for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will **walk** and not become weary.”

May God help us to walk in this direction and manner in Jesus name.

– Pastor Aldi ☺