

**1st Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

#106, "Prepare the Way, O Zion," vs. 1, 3

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.

Oh, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

And tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Oh, blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; re. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958
adap. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930
Copyright: 1982 Hope Publishing Company

Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Philippians 4: 4-5]

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: We will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let our gentleness be evident to all for the Lord is near.

People: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming. Let us worship our great God!

*Christmas Carol Sing

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, always with us and always coming: we confess that we often forget how to prepare for your Advent. We forget how to hope in miracles; we find ourselves ignoring the promises of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

[time of silence]

Leader: And all God's people said,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Isaiah 40: 1-2]

Leader: Hear the Good News! "Comfort, comfort my people," says our God. "Your sins are pardoned."

People: Through Christ the penalty has been paid. Thanks be to God.

Children's Message & Lighting the Advent Candle

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #115, "Away in a Manger."

After the Advent Candle Lighting, the children may return to sit with their families.

Advent Liturgy

Readings: Twilah, Allison, & Kimberly

Leader: Christ is the light for all people.

Children: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Leader: Let us Pray...

People: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent we begin a spiritual pilgrimage as we joyously anticipate Christmas day, a reminder of the birth of our Savior. As we come to this place of worship, we know that we are in your presence. Give us your peace, and through us, may all know the peace that Christ brings. In his name we pray. Amen

Hearing God's Word

*Hymn of Preparation

#88, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," vs. 1, 4, 6

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Root of Jesse
Free thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O Come Thou Dayspring
Come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Copyright: music arr, 1990 John Weaver
CCLI#1963157

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18- 25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon

"Wise Men... What will You Say?"

Responding to God's Word

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“What Child is this?” H&F Duet

*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[various prayers]

Leader: To you God we pray,

People: May Your Kingdom Come.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. 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.

Hymn of Response

#82, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus

Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us,

Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,

Hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,

Born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#155, "Raise a Song of Gladness"

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

Text: Taize Community, 1978

Music: Jacques Berthier 1978

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able