



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Advent
5 December 2020

Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise, it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—Incarnation! There is more in that than in creation, more melody in Jesus in the manger, than there is in worlds on worlds rolling their grandeur round the throne of the Most High. —Charles Spurgeon

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—from Matthew 1:23

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.”

Introit—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Vs. 1

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.'

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—Isaiah 40:1-5

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

All: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Reader 1: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Reader 2: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

All: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Pastor: And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Hymn of Praise—To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born

To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored,
His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, His reign no end shall know;
To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,

Him shall the tribes of Earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of Heav'n,
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, the great and migh - ty Lord,
Jus - tice shall guard His throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low,
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the migh - ty Lord of Heav'n,

Him all the hosts of Heav'n.
The great and migh - ty Lord.
And peace a - bound be - low.
The migh - ty Lord of Heav'n.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Hymn of Praise—Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
Of Jes - se's lin - age com - ing, as men of old have sung.
With Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin mo - ther kind:
Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - r' - where,
It came, a flow'r-et bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
To show God's love a - right she bore to us a Sav - ior when half - spent was the night.
True man, yet ver - y God; from sin and death He saves us and light - ens ev - r'y load.

Text: 15th c. German Carol, Tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; Music: ES IST EIN ROS, harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

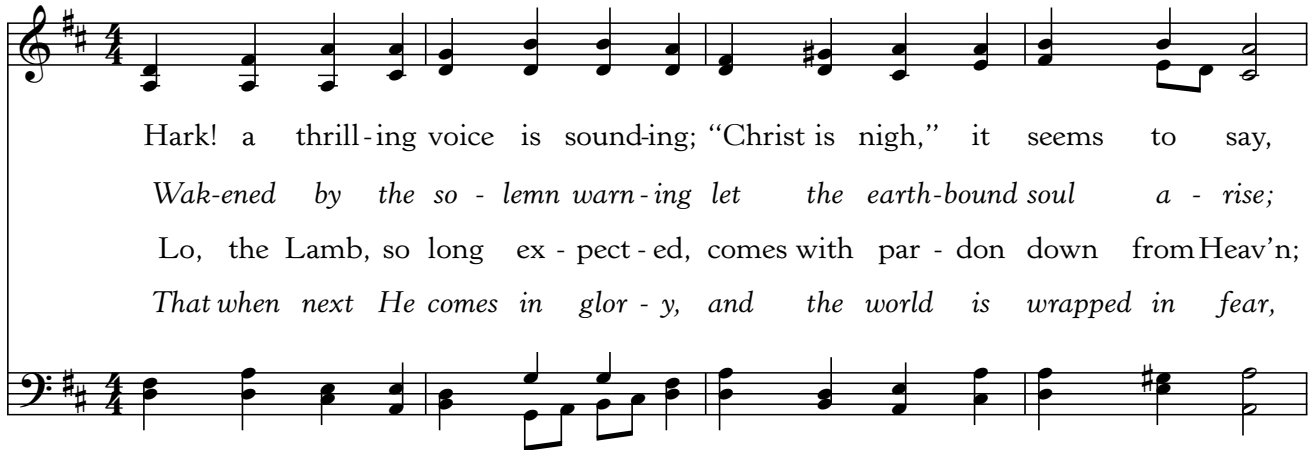
Scripture Reading—Deuteronomy 10:12-14

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

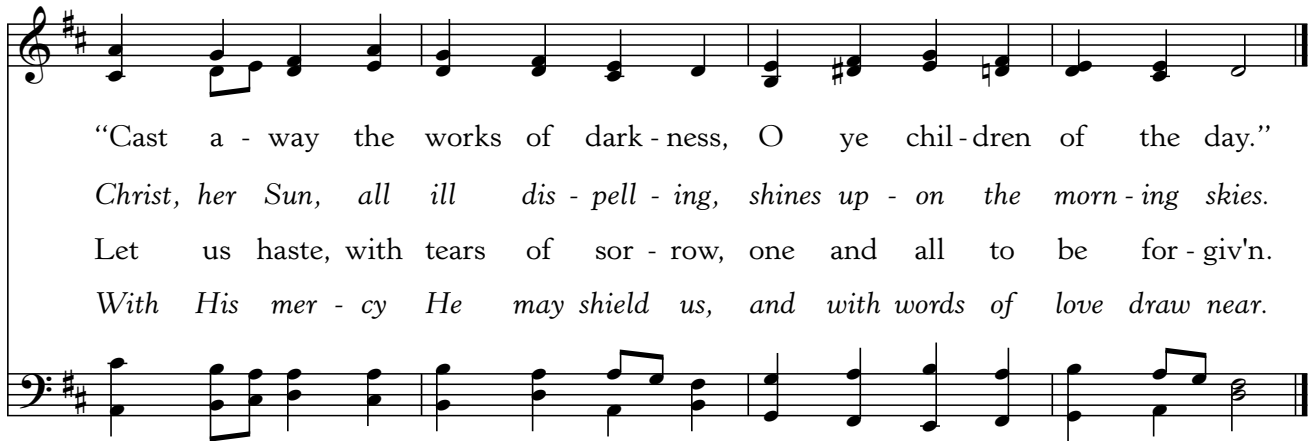
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Praise—Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,
Wak-ened by the so - lemn warn-ing let the earth-bound soul a - rise;
Lo, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from Heav’n;
That when next He comes in glor - y, and the world is wrapped in fear,



“Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil-dren of the day.”
Christ, her Sun, all ill dis - pell - ing, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - giv'n.
With His mer - cy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Text: Latin Hymn, 5th C., Tr. Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: MERTON (MONK), William H. Merton, 1850.

Reading of the Word—Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Of The Father's Love Begotten, Vs. 4



This is He whom once the si - byls with u - ni - ted voice fore - told,



Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets pro-mised in their faith - ful word.



Let the world u - nite to praise Him, long de - sired, fore - seen of old,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th Century, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851, and Henry W. Baker, 1859;
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 13th century Plainsong.

Sermon—*The Sovereign Lord Over All Things*

—Assistant Pastor, Brian Phillips

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Psalm 5:1-8; Romans 2:4, Daniel 9:18

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing our sins before You. Give ear to our words, O Lord; consider our groanings.

All: Give attention to the sound of our cry, our King and our God, for to You do we pray.

Pastor: For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.

All: The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful men.

Pastor: Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, we will enter Your house and bow before You.

All: O Lord, lead us in Your righteousness and make our way straight before You.

Pastor: We know that it is Your kindness, O Lord, that is meant to lead us to repentance.

All: For we do not present our pleas before You because of our righteousness, but because of Your great mercy.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly faster WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 103:8-12; Revelation 15:3-4

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever; He does not deal with us according to our sins or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the Ages.

All: **Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?**

Pastor: For You alone are holy. Amen.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th Century.

HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

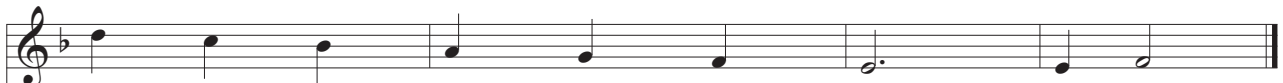


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

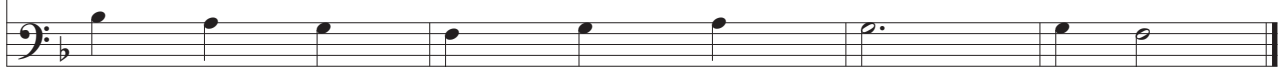
MEN



We praise You, we bless_ You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Hymn of Anticipation—Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying



"Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," the watch - men on the heights are cry - ing, "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last!"
Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, and all her heart with joy is spring - ing; she wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
Now let all the heav'ns a - dore thee, and men and an - gels sing be - fore— thee, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone;



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the thrill - ing cry rej - oic - es: "Come forth, ye mai - dens, night is past!
for her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, the strong in grace, in truth vic - to - rious; her Star is ris'n, her Light is come!
of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where we are with the choir im - mor - tal of an - gels round thy daz - zling throne;



The Bride - groom comes; a - wake, your lamps with glad - ness take; al - le - lu - ia! And for his mar - riage feast pre - pare,
Ah, come, thou bles - sed Lord, O Je - sus, Son of God, al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low 'til the _ halls we see
nor eye hath seen, nor ear hath yet at - tained to hear what there is ours; but we re - joice, and sing to thee



for you must go to meet— him there."
where thou hast bid us sup— with thee.
our hymn of joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Phillipp Nicolai 1599, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: WACHET AUF, Phillipp Nicolai 1599.

Hymn of Contemplation—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on Earth He stood,
Rank on rank the host of Heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way,
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in His hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
As the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our Lord to Earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
He will give to all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
That the pow'rs of Hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th c. Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864, Music: PICARDY, 17th c. French Melody.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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.

And 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 Praise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se! Draw the quar - ry from the li - on's claw;
O come, thou Key of Da - vid come, and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy heal - ing light;

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
From the dread cav - erns of the grave, from neth - er hell, thy peo - ple save.
Safe - guard for us the heav'n - ward road, and bar the way to death's a - bode.
Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring gloom, and pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: 12th century, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 13th century,
Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Vs. 2

Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Q. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.
—Westminster Shorter Catechism

Have you ever noticed how many Advent hymns and carols are based on texts from the Old Testament prophets? This morning, we'll sing from *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*, "Isaiah t'was foretold it," after having sung the words of Isaiah's prophecy in *To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born*. In *Of The Father's Love Begotten*, we'll confess that Jesus was the Messiah "whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word." Two of the hymns we sing are drawn from New Testament prophecies: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* dramatizes the words of John the Baptist ("Christ is nigh!"), while *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* is based on Jesus' parable of the ten virgins from Matthew 25 (an anticipation of His second coming). The service closes with *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, identifying our own estate with that of the ancient Hebrews in captivity, longing for the "dayspring" to "dispel the long night's lingering gloom" much as Jeremiah or any of the prophets would have. As we read, sing, and meditate on the prophecies which look forward to Christ's coming, let's also celebrate that Christ Himself comes as a prophet, revealing the will of God for our Salvation—ransoming captive Israel. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Lord, Earth, World, Fullness, Seas, Rivers, Founded, Established
Keystone Verse: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.
(Psalm 24:1)



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Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

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