



CHRIST THE KING
— PRESBYTERIAN —

SEASON OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17, 2023

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King.”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Off-spring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King.”

CALL TO WORSHIP - From Isaiah 40

Leader: *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.*

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

Leader: *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.*

People: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Leader: *A voice says, “Cry!”*

People: And I said, “What shall I cry?”

Leader: *All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.*

All: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*by Henry Sloane Coffin, John Mason Neale,
and Thomas Helmore*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

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
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

“Once In Royal David's City”

*by Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander
and Henry John Gauntlett*

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall
With the poor and meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

Jesus is our childhood's pattern
Day by day like us He grew
He was little weak and helpless
Tears and smiles like us He knew
And He feels for all our sadness
And He shares in all our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above
And He leads His children on
To the place where He has gone

YOUTH CHOIR

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

15th century French Carol

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord!*

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of love, we fixate on power and money, yet you come in generosity. We use and devour others, yet you gave up your Son for us. We covet material comfort, yet you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: *Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

People: The maker of heaven and earth!

Minister: *O Lord, open our lips,*

People: And our mouths will declare Your
praise!

“Abide With Me”

by Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord, Abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.

What but Thy grace,

Can foil the tempter's power?

Who like Thyself my, guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine,

Abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom,
and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and
earth's vain shadows flee
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me

GREETING

Leader: *May the peace of Christ be with you!*

People: And also with you!

Leader: *Let us share His peace with one another.*

Children may leave for lesson (ages 4-6).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As the leader directs, the congregation is invited to pray for those for whom they are burdened.

Pray aloud and by name or silently if you prefer.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 131

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord!*

People: Thanks be to God!

“It Is Well With My Soul”

by Horatio G. Spafford and Philip Paul Bliss

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul);
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul);
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul);
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day
when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound
and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul);
It is well, it is well with my soul.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things
visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Minister: *The peace of the Lord be always
with you.*

People: And also with you!

Minister: *Lift up your hearts!*

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Wine is in the outer circles of cups; the inner circle contains grape juice. Gluten-free bread is in its own tray.

As the usher directs, please come forward one row at a time to pick up your cups.

Please hold your elements until all are served so that we may all partake together, as one body.

“There is a Fountain”

Words: William Cowper

Music: Karl Digerness

There is fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains

Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away

Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
'Til all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more

Be saved to sin no more,
Be saved to sin no more;
'Til all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be 'til I die;

And shall be 'til I die,
And shall be 'til I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be 'til I die.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

THE SENDING - From Psalm 134

Go, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD! May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

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Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
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Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Off-spring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
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