

Celebration of Worship

December 1, 2024
1st Sunday of Advent

Prelude

The Prelude is a time to begin transitioning from fellowshiping with our neighbors to preparing our hearts to worship God.

Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to all our visitors. Please fill out the guest registration to let us know of your visit.

Silent Prayer and Preparation for Worship

Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and the countries of our world. Please help us to see the paths of peace in our lives and then give us the courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from **Philippians 4:4-5**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: **I will say it again, Rejoice!**

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: **The Lord is near.**

*Invocation and Adoration

*Worship in Song

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(please be seated)

[2]

* Indicates please stand if able.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*The first candle on the Advent wreath is called the **Prophecy** candle, it opens the period that anticipates Christmas and remembers those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light this candle in gratitude for His first coming and in anticipation of His glorious return.

He will come to bring light and life to His people. Come quickly, Lord Jesus; come to comfort Your people.

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 2:2-5

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

***Worship in Song**

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

[3]

* Indicates please stand if able.

Public Confession of Sin

ALL: Most Merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things we should have done. And we have done those things we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who repent, according to your promises declared to us in Your Holy Word. And grant, O merciful Lord, that we might hereafter live holy lives, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ~ Romans 8.1-2

The Prayers of God's People

(The pastor will lead us in prayer, reading submitted requests from individuals)

The Giving of First Fruits

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ~Proverbs 3:9-10

***The Doxology**

(Tune: Veni Emmanuel)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen! Amen! Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

***Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

***Worship in Song**

Jesus Messiah

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

**Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all**

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

(chorus)

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

(chorus)

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all

Joy Has Dawned

Verse 1

Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for ev'ry nation
Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary

Verse 2

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place
Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast
Vulnerable and helpless

Verse 3

Shepherds bow before the Lamb
Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophesy the story
Gold a King is born today
Incense God is with us
Myrrh His death will make a way
By His blood He'll win us

Verse 4

[6]

Son of Adam Son of heav'n
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ our mighty Champion
What a Savior what a Friend
What a glorious mystery
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of history

Glo – ri – a in excelsis Deo
Glo – ri – a in excelsis De - o!

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

Matthew 1:1-17

Preaching of the Word

Son of David, Son of Abraham, Son of God

***Hymn of Response and Preparation**

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

(vss. 1 & 2)

VERSE 1

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity

In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

[7]

* Indicates please stand if able.

VERSE 2

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin

See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Fairfield Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive the Holy Communion with us. **If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers in the bulletin below.**

Prayer of Consecration and Confession of Sin

Distribution of the Elements

PLEASE NOTE: The cups in the outer ring contain wine; all other cups *inside* contain *grape juice*.

Please **hold the bread** and we will partake together signifying our unity in one Body; please **drink the cup upon receiving it** in acknowledgment of your personal union to Christ in His shed blood.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*** Closing Hymn**

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery
(vss. 3 & 4)

VERSE 3

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory

See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

VERSE 4

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

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How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

***Benediction**

Just as God has the first word in worship, he also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

Postlude

Reflections

ADVENT— ... “it’s Advent season, a time set aside by the church to help believers prepare to receive the fullness of Jesus’ coming. And it’s not just in remembrance of His incarnation, coming to Bethlehem as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, but also in anticipation of His return as the ‘Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory,’ who will ‘send his angels to gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens’” (Mark 13:26-27).—John Stonestreet

Memory Verse of the Week:

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."