

Celebration of Worship

December 8, 2024
2nd 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.

Reflections on Advent

The Advent season not only entails the celebration of the first coming of Christ—His incarnation, His birth—but also His second coming – His coming again to save and to judge the living and the dead.

Choral Introit

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Pastor: God said, Let there be light! And there was light.

People: **The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.**

Pastor: On those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned.

People: Christ came as the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Pastor: So we come into the light of his presence to worship him saying,

ALL: We praise you, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit that you are light and in you is no darkness at all.

***Invocation and Adoration**

The invocation should acknowledge that our worship is in vain if it is not Spirit-inspired. Often, the invocation will also employ the language of adoration and praise, which is very fitting in light of the vertical, God-focused dimension of this prayer.

***Worship in Song**

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Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Today we relight the candle we lit last week. We called it the **Prophecy** candle because it reminds us of the promise of the coming Messiah foretold long ago by God Himself in the Garden of Eden, and then by all the Prophets of old.

We now light the **second candle** on the Advent Wreath called the **Bethlehem** candle. This candle is also called the candle of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

Hear now the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear

[3]

* Indicates please stand if able.

of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Presentation of New Members

***Worship in Song with Carols of Christmas 203**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PETITIONING GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Public Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

ALL: *Almighty God,*

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the motivation of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

[4]

* Indicates please stand if able.

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ~ Luke 1:68-69

The Prayers of God's People

(The pastor will lead us in prayer, taking praises and requests from individuals)

ADORING GOD'S GLORY

The Giving of First Fruits

***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! A – men!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

***Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

***Worship in Song with Carols of Christmas**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (211)

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r

when we were gone astray;

Refrain:

***O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

2 From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name. [Refrain]

3 "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

4 The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway,

Glorious Light

Glorious light! see the dawn of Salvation:
Angels in white fill the skies with their wondrous song;
Awakening earth with news of His birth;
Join the hymn of the highest heavens!

Long has the world fought the song of the angels.

Heavenly music is drowned by a warring world;
Yet hope burns a light, that shatters the night;
Turn your heart to the call of glory!

***Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to men on earth.
Come and adore Him with wonder -
Christ Lord of Heaven and earth.***

There is a day all creation has longed for -
When all of time has been spent and the Lord returns;
His song we'll repeat as heaven completes;
Promised peace that will fill the nations!

***Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to men on earth.
Come and adore Him with wonder -
Christ Lord of Heaven and earth.***

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Preaching of the Word

The Birth of the King

*** Closing Hymn 195**

Joy to the World

***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

Memory Verse of the Week:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.