

# EVERY LONGING HEART

an Advent Communion Worship Service



December 1<sup>st</sup> 7PM  
West End Presbyterian Church





*Angels Appearing Before the Shepherds, Henry Ossawa Tanner (c.1910)*

*"Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart."*

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Charles Wesley, 1744*

The celebration of the season of Advent, beginning four Sundays before Christmas day, dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It's a time that focuses our attention on Christ's first coming as well as His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and rule with all power and authority. We are to be reminded that we do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return, and we are filled with both a sense of joyful expectation and humble reverence, with our spiritual focus being on lives of prayer and preparation.

Advent literally means "coming" or "arrival" and teaches us to expect Jesus as the long-awaited King, His salvation, and the final judgment of the world.

As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth, we all know grief, loss, and longing. We come to the manger realizing that the world is as cold as stone, that feelings of loneliness and loss overwhelm, and that our hearts cry out: "Come, Lord Jesus! Wipe away every tear! Make all things new!"

Tonight's worship service leads us to lament the losses experienced in this broken world and **look expectantly in hope to Jesus**, the Desire of every nation, the true Joy of every longing heart.

## Prepare for Worship

::: During this Advent worship service, we will prepare our hearts during an extended musical prelude. :::

### Musical Gathering Advent Hymns

*As the music is playing, take time to meditate on these Advent readings.*

"Before we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remember the pain of labor – we wait with this whole longing world, with all of creation, groaning for redemption to be born...to practice Advent is to lean into a cosmic ache: our deep, wordless desire for things to be made right."

*--Tish Harrison Warren*

"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone...

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.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."

*--Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

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

*--'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## Opening Prayer

Psalm 88:1-4; Psalm 103:13-17

**:: Congregation, please rise if you are able. ::**

Leader: O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.

**People: Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!**

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

**I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength.**

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.**

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

**But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.**



## Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

"They will call Him Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:23

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 from on high  
And cause Thy light on us to rise  
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, O Bright and Morning Star  
And bring us comfort from afar  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
And turn our darkness into light  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell

O come, Thou King of nations, bring  
An end to all our suffering  
Bid every pain and sorrow cease  
And reign now as our Prince of Peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell

Latin Hymn (12<sup>th</sup> century), trans. John Mason Neale (1851); Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (13<sup>th</sup> century)

**:: Congregation, please be seated. ::**

## Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is bereft of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
so I say, "My endurance has perished;  
so has my hope from the LORD."  
Remember my affliction and my wanderings,  
the wormwood and the gall!  
My soul continually remembers it  
and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"Therefore I will hope in him."  
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

## Song: Drive Out the Darkness

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

::: The congregation will join in unison on the **refrain** after each verse :::

***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, Jesus, come***

Every year under the thorn, every wrong that we have known  
Every valley will be raised, ancient ruins will be remains...

***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, Jesus, come***

In the emptiness of grief, through the night of suffering  
In the loss and in the tears, God of comfort, O be near...

***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, O come, be our Light and drive out the darkness***  
***Come, Jesus, come***

## Prayers of Lament

Our great God, we lament the loss of loved ones who are now absent in our gatherings with family and friends. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament the loss of broken relationships that bring grief and heartache in our homes. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament the loss of health in those we love and in our own weak bodies. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament with those that have lost loved ones in death due to violence, leaving widows and orphans in grief. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament with those who have lost jobs and face economic hardship. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament the lives of unborn children lost through abortion and miscarriages. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament with those who have experienced grief and pain through racial tension, violence, conflict, and discrimination. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament with the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament hearts that have known confusion and condemnation. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lament with the weary, the rejected, the lonely, and the fearful. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**The people can add their own cries for God to meet them in their longings, and for Christ to come and set things right.**



Thus says the LORD:

"In a time of favor I have answered you;

in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you as

a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,

saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,'

to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.'

They shall feed along the ways;

on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,

for he who has pity on them will lead them,

and by springs of water will guide them.

And I will make all my mountains a road,

and my highways shall be raised up.

Behold, these shall come from afar,

and behold, these from the north and from the west,

and these from the land of Syene."

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the LORD has comforted his people and

will have compassion on his afflicted.

**:: Congregation, please rise if you are able. ::**

## Song: O Come, All Ye Faithful

"Let us go to Bethlehem and see." Luke 2:15

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels...

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God, glory in the highest...

Attr. to John Francis Wade (1751); Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi (1751).  
Public Domain.

**:: Congregation, please be seated. ::**

## Message: Psalm 24. A Psalm of David.

Pastor Kevin Greene

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
<sup>2</sup>for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.

<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! Selah

## Words of Institution

I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

## Prayer

from the Book of Common Prayer

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see [www.wepc.org/communion](http://www.wepc.org/communion).*

## Musical Offering

**Comfort, Comfort, O My People**

Johannes Olearius (1671); tr.. Catherine Winkworth (1863) Seth Thomas Crissman | Rachel Mast. (2022).  
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**:: Congregation, please rise if you are able. ::**



Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the  
power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## Songs of Response: Come Light Our Hearts

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God..." Psalm 146:5

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life, our only hope  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts...

Oh joy above all other loves  
In You we find more than enough  
We come as we are, O heal and restore  
Come light our hearts...

# Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

"And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD."  
Isaiah 59:20

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

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1 & 3, 1748) | Mark E. Hunt (v. 2, 1978).  
Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1855). Public Domain.

## Benediction

I Peter 5:10-11

<sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Kevin Green gave tonight's message and administered the Lord's Supper.

Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Mya Wilcox, Mollie Bowman, Haley Hollenbach, Kim Johnson, and Deacon Luke Shrader served in tonight's worship service.