

ADVENT | *The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.*

prelude

PAT DOLAN

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

*Now Comes the Gentiles' Savior (BWV 659) – J.S. Bach
Savior of the Nations, Come – 16th ce. German tune /C. Moglebust*

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

preparing our hearts

The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation;
This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

– Exodus 15:2_{ESV}

** call to worship

Leader: O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
All: For you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

Leader: He has swallowed up death forever. He has wiped away every tear.
All: Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

– Based on Isaiah 25 & Luke 2:14_{ESV}

Leader: They will call his name Immanuel.
All: Come, let us adore him.

** Please stand if you are able

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To the great One in Three, eternal praises be,
Hence evermore. His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

Words: Anonymous, Music: Giardani Felice. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: Send out your light and your truth; let them lead us; let them bring us to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then we will go to the altar of God, to God our exceeding joy, and we will praise you, O God, my God. This we pray by the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent as the Light of the World. Amen.

— Based on Psalm 43:3–4

The candle color for the first week of Advent is purple, symbolizing repentance. This week's candle is called the Candle of Hope. It is the light that burned within the Prophets who longed for God's Messiah.

The Readings | Isaiah 7:14 and Revelation 21:1-5 ESV

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

** hymn of praise

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul; to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul. Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am;

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing. While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be

And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And through eternity, I'll sing on.

Words: Folk Hymn, Music: American Folk Tune. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found.

– Psalm 32:5b-6a ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
And put on the armor of light.
We confess our sins to you and hide our lives in Christ,
Who visited us in great humility, to redeem us from our sin and shame,
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.**

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL **

**All: 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.**

Latin hymn. Translated by John Mason Neale, Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

– Romans 8:1 ESV

All: Thanks be to God!

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

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

* Chorus:

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 blessed assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate and has shed his own blood for my soul. *

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

And Lord, haste the day when my 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. *

Words: Horatio Spafford; Music: Philip Bliss. Public Domain.

scripture reading

Leader: Isaiah 40:3-5
 This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

All: **Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

the ordination and installation of officers

Presiding Minister: Whit Anderson

Candidates:

Introduction

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of elder or deacon in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity, and edification of the Church?

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as elders and deacons, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which these offices, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitle them?

The Laying On of Hands and Prayer

Pronouncement & Charge:

Minister: I now pronounce and declare that (names removed) have been regularly elected, ordained and installed elders or deacons in this church, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that as such they are entitled to all encouragement, honor and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3–K.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

When instructed, greet those around you, saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.” When the music begins, please be seated and prepare yourself for the hearing of God’s Word.

sermon

Series | “Rejoice: In Advent, We Wait, Remember, and Hope”

WHIT ANDERSON

Sermon | “Waiting and Wondering”

December 2, 2018

Luke 1:5-25 ^{ESV} | 5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

18 And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” 19 And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

sermon notes

1. A Dutiful Priest & His Barren Wife
2. The Angel’s Announcement
3. A Speechless Priest & His Rejoicing Wife

** affirmation of faith

Leader: Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

All: **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

All: **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation.

All: **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

All: **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

All: (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymns.

NOTE TO PARENTS: To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Let us pray.

All: **Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in this world.**

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

KNOWING YOU

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres and wars to own;
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,
Spent and worthless now compared to this. *

** Chorus:*

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
To be found in you and known as yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness. *

Oh to know the power of your risen life,
And to know you in your sufferings;
To become like you in your death, my Lord;
So with you to live, and never die. *

"Knowing You," Words & Music by Graham Kendrick. © Make Way Music.
CCLI #3022711, Song #1045238.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

Words: Liturgy of St. James; trans. by Gerard Moultrie. Music: Picardy, Traditional French carol melody.
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COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set they 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.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories know no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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&4) and Mark Hunt (vv. 2&3). Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard.
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announcements

Please note the announcements found on Pages 17-20 of your bulletin.

**** benediction**

Minister: Peace on the earth!

All: And good will to mankind!

Minister: May the peace of God the Father, the grace of Christ the Son, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.