

**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.*

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## 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.*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* – 12th ce./Lloyd Larson

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* – Cologne Gesangbuch, 1599/Johannes Brahms

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## preparing our hearts

For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;  
Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

– Psalm 31:3,5 ESV

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## \*\* call to worship

*Leader:* The LORD is our strength and our shield;

**All:** **In him our hearts trust, and we are helped;**

*Leader:* Our hearts exult, and with our song we give thanks to him.

**All:** **The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**

*Leader:* Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

**All:** **Be our shepherd and carry them forever.**

– Based on Psalm 28:7-9 ESV

*Leader:* They will call his name Immanuel.

**All:** **Come, let us adore him.**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## 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.  
Public Domain. CCLI #3022711.

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**\*\*prayer of invocation**

*Leader:* Because of your tender mercy, O Lord our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace. Therefore, Holy Father, give us great joy because you have drawn near and made your dwelling among your people; all by the gracious name of your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

– Based on Luke 1:78-79

*The candle color for the second week of Advent is purple, symbolizing royalty and the sovereignty of Christ. This week's candle is called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. It demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King that is celebrated during Advent.*

**The Readings** | John 1:1-5 and Revelation 21:22-26 ESV

*Leader:* This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

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**\*\* hymn of praise**

### GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

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 power when we were gone astray,  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly 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.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

"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 power and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words and Music: Traditional English carol. Public Domain.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* [Thus says the LORD,] “I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.”

– Jeremiah 33:8 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** **Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets,  
To preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
That we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. 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.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,  
In ancient times didst give the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.  
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:* And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

– Jeremiah 31:34 ESV

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

REFORMATION SONG

Your Word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build;  
In every line the truth is found and every page with glory filled.

Through faith alone we come to you; we have no merit we can claim.  
Sure that your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus' name. \*

\* *Chorus:*

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone; gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

In Christ alone we're justified; his righteousness is all our plea;  
Your law's demands are satisfied; his perfect work has set us free. \*

By grace alone we have been saved; all that we are has come from you.  
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved now by your pow'r have been made new. \*

"Reformation Song," Music and Words by Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin.  
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**scripture reading**

*Leader:* Isaiah 40:6-11  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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**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.**

### Candidates for baptism | (names removed)

*\* by profession of faith*

**Matthew 28:18-20** <sup>ESV</sup> | And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Romans 6:4-5** <sup>ESV</sup> | We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS

1. Do you acknowledge your children’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God’s covenant promises in their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

### VOWS FOR COMMUNING MEMBERS

*All those who are joining the church as communing members for the first time, whether through baptism, profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership, must affirm the following vows:*

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolved and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and the discipline of the church and promise to study its purity and peace?

*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.*

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**sermon**

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

WHIT ANDERSON

**Sermon** | “What Will This Child Be?”

**December 9, 2018**

**Luke 1:57-80** ESV | 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” 61 And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people

69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

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71 that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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**sermon notes**

- 1. His Joyful Reception**
- 2. His Father's Blessing**
- 3. His Holy Purpose**

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## \*\* 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.

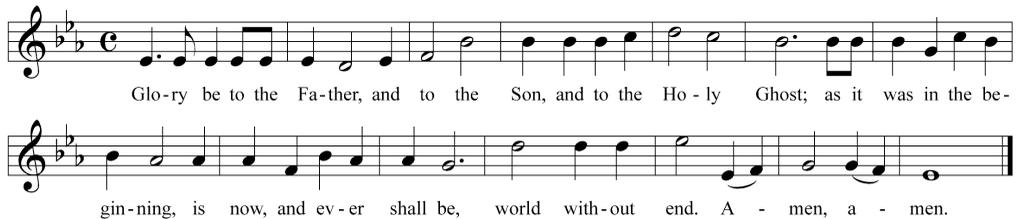
**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

*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.

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*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.***

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## 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.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks, Music: Lewis Henry Redner, Public Domain.

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## LO! HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us, and lightens every load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

Trans. (stanzas 1-2): Theodore Baker, Trans (stanzas 3-4): Harriett R. Spaeth, and Trans. (stanza 5): John C. Mattes. Arr. Michael Praetorius. German melody, 15th cent. Public Domain.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmond Sears. Music: Richard Storrs Willis.

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**announcements**

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

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**\*\* 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.