



## December 2, 2018 First Sunday of Advent

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### REFLECTIONS

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Christmas means that, through the grace of God and the incarnation, peace with God is available; and if you make peace with God, then you can go out and make peace with everybody else. And the more people who embrace the gospel and do that, the better off the world is. Christmas, therefore, means the increase of peace—both with God and between people—across the face of the world.

Tim Keller  
Contemporary North American pastor and author  
*Hidden Christmas*

It can be argued that Advent, more than any other season of the church year, is immediately relevant to our concrete lives as individuals, to the concrete life of the church under stress, and to the concrete headlines in the newspaper. The reason for that is that Advent tells us about our own lives as Christians, here and now. Advent is where we live, work, play, laugh, struggle, and die. Advent is the Time Between—between the first coming of Christ and the second coming, between darkness and dawn, between the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. It is not the time of fulfillment; it is the time of waiting. It is not the time of seeing face-to-face; it is the time of seeing “through a glass, darkly” (I Corinthians 13:12). It is not the time of triumphant victory; it is the time of bearing the cross.

Fleming Rutledge  
Contemporary North American priest and author  
*Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us.

Henri J. M. Nouwen (1932-1996)  
Dutch priest, professor, and writer  
*Gracias: A Latin American Journal*

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## GATHERING

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### Praise Gang Choir

*See What God Is Going to Do!*

*Mary's Song*

*Adoration Medley*

*(O Come, All Ye Faithful; Away in a Manger; Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; Silent Night)*

### Welcome

**Dr. Jimmy Agan**

### Scripture Reading for Advent

**Isaiah 2:2-5, NIV**

Readers: Stephen and Kara Cary

Reader:

*In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established  
as chief among the mountains;  
it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.*

All:

Many peoples will come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Reader:

*The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.*

All:

Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

### Prayer of Adoration (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

### Prayer of Confession

Leader:

*Almighty God, you freely pardon all who repent and turn to you; now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace:*

All:

Forgive all our sins, and cleanse us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Silent Confession

### Words of Encouragement

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22 NIV**

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

### Prayer for Christ’s Church and the World

**Philippians 4:6, NIV**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

### The Passing of the Peace

*The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you.*

### Children’s Worship:

Parents who wish may send children grades K5-3<sup>rd</sup> to meet leaders in the Lobby. Children will return to their families following Communion, through the side doors to your right.

### Worship through Giving

**Luke 1:68-69 NIV**

*Dawning Light of Our Salvation (Luke 1:68-79)*

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## THE WORD

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### Scripture Reading

**Matthew 1:1-17, NIV**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud

the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

*The Word of the Lord.*  
Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

**Rev. Andrew Flatgard**

**Immanuel: God with Us as a Covenant-Keeper**

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## **COMMUNION**

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### **Distribution of the Bread and Cup**

All Communion bread is gluten-free.

Trays contain wine in the middle and grape juice in the outer rim.

Please hold the elements until everyone is served and we will all take them together.

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## **SENDING**

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*Joy to the World*

**Benediction**

**Romans 15:13, NIV**

*Loving our community to life by pursuing gospel restoration*