

The Lord’s Day

Liturgy for Corporate Worship

December 8, 2024

Prelude

Chris Holmberg

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Choir

Christ, Be Our Light!

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:14

Opening Hymn

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Corporate Prayer of Confession & Silent Confession

Heavenly Father, though our lives are full of good intentions, too often they are also full of faulty steps. Though we profess to trust in you alone, too often we chase after other gods. We confess that our only hope is in Christ Jesus: in his life, death and resurrection. May righteousness and forgiveness both be ours only by your grace, in the name of the One who is the Word made flesh, and who alone is our peace. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-2, 5

The Doxology

567

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Elder Randy Heidtman

The Lord’s Prayer

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. 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. Amen.

Unison Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Anthem

Choir

In the Bleak Midwinter

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Hymn

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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Sermon

Rev. Pete Scribner

Micah 5:2-5a

Closing Hymn

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Christ Is Coming!

Benediction

Philippians 4:7

Parting Hymn

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Featured Elements of Worship: Repeated Elements and Advent Hymns

You may have noticed that our Introit and Unison Scripture Reading are the same this week as last week. Though we sometimes have typos in the bulletin, this is not such a case! Throughout the season of Advent, we are using these particular elements every week. *Christ Be Our Light* pairs perfectly with the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, and Romans 5:1-5 is a passage that touches on all four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. The goal is that in using these elements four straight weeks, might add to the growing anticipation of Christmas that Advent encourages.

And what about Christmas carols? Why don’t we sing more of them during Advent? Well, it certainly can be tempting to skip right over Advent and immediately begin singing our favorite Christmas carols. After all, there are so many songs to sing and only a short season to sing them. (Why don’t we sing Christmas carols at other times of the year? Good question!) Have patience. For just a few short weeks, we are going to postpone the full use of carols so that we can sing songs about longing, wishing, looking and waiting for Jesus. Stay tuned though...Christmas is coming!

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
 3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Unison Scripture Reading...Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
 Frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone.
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago.

Angels and archangels
 May have gathered there,
 Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
 But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
 Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
 The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,
 Warm and safe the Child are holding.
 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
 If I were a wiseman, I would do my part.
 What can I give him, what can I give him?
 Give him my heart.

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

1. Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from her groans and tra - vail cease;
 2. Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of thy bit - ter cross and pain;
 3. Long thine ex - iles have been pin - ing, far from rest, and home, and thee:
 4. With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, let no harp re - main un - strung;

let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion hope re - store and faith in - crease:
 she shall yet be - hold thy glo - ry, when thou com - est back to reign:
 but, in heav'n - ly ves - tures shin - ing, they their lov - ing Lord shall see:
 let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus on - ward roll from tongue to tongue:

Christ is com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Come, thou bless - ed Prince of Peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Haste the joy - ous ju - bi - lee.
 "Christ is com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Come, Lord Je - sus, quick - ly come!"

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Sermon Notes

The LORD has no regard for worldly standards of:

- Prominence

- Power

- Prosperity

WELCOME to this morning’s service of corporate worship!

The Flowers adorning our worship this have been provided by Jerry & Joanne Dosh, in memory of their fathers Richard Dosh & Ralph Jones (who both would have celebrated birthdays this month), and by Jim & Chris Campbell to the glory of God.

Poinsettia can be ordered for \$12 in the Narthex. They will be used to decorate the sanctuary leading up to Christmas and can be taken home after our Christmas Eve service.

This Christmas, the Martha Mary Circle will be providing \$5 Walmart gift cards for the kids at Whaley’s Children’s Home. If you would like to donate to their efforts, checks made out to Martha-Mary Circle or Walmart gift cards should be given to Wanda Knight.

Food Baskets for Christmas are being prepared again this year by the Martha Mary Circle. Any donated non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted, (purchased in 2024). Ideas for food may donations include: Canned meats, canned dinners, boxed meals, peanut butter & jelly, condiments, boxed Velveeta Cheese, Chunky Soups & canned vegetables, breakfast foods, turkey dinner fixings. Any money donated specifically to this effort will be used to purchase hams and other items for each family’s basket. If you know of a family in need of a basket (two requests per person), you will find sign-up forms on the desk in the Church Office. Thank you!

Christmas Cards: The Deacons realize that the task of sending greetings to all friends in the church is a big undertaking! To lessen the burden during this rushed season they are encouraging us again this year to send just one card to the entire congregation. These cards will be used to decorate the Friendship Tree in the Narthex and the names of senders will be listed weekly in the bulletin. Those wishing to donate all or part of the savings in cards and postage will find them put to good use by the Diaconate.

So far, greetings have been received from: Jim & Karen Hayden, Anne Haughey, Dorothy Heidtman, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, and Pete & Erin Scribner.

<u>This Week at Calvary</u>		
Today	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts, fellowship, and our annual Congregational Business Meeting.
Tuesday	No Tuesdays at Two This Week	
Thursday	11:00	Martha-Mary Potluck
Friday	Office Closed	
Next Sunday	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	Sunday School

The Martha Mary Circle will be holding their annual Christmas Potluck Party on Thursday, December 12th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to come! Beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share and a favorite Scripture verse, and enjoy some holiday fun!

<u>Church Staff</u>		
Pastor		Pete Scribner
Director of Music		Susan Lechota
Music Minister		Chris Holmberg
Custodian		Vicky Haughey

Offerings are received each week in the wooden donation box in the Narthex. We have placed it there as a convenience for our members and friends. If you are visiting us this Sunday, please feel no pressure to make any donation. We are glad to have you simply be our guest today, and invite you to join us for a donut and coffee in the Fellowship Hall after worship!

Meditation for the Week

As the great writing prophets of the Bible knew, sin has 1,000 faces. The prophets knew how many ways human life can go wrong because they knew how many ways human life can go right. You need the concept of a wall on plumb to tell when one is off. These prophets kept dreaming of a time when God would put things right again.

They dreamed of a new age in which human crookedness would be straightened out, rough places made plain, the foolish would be made wise, and the wise humble. They dreamed of a time when the deserts would flower, the mountains would run with wine, weeping would cease, and people could go to sleep without weapons on their laps. People would work in peace and work to fruitful effect. Lambs could lie down with lions. All nature would be fruitful, benign, and filled with wonder upon wonder. All humans would be knit together in brotherhood and sisterhood. And all nature and all humans would look to God, walk with God, lean toward God, and delight in God. Shouts of joy and recognition would well-up from valleys and seas, from women in streets, and from men on ships.

This webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call *shalom*. We call it *peace*. But it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, “shalom” means *universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight*, a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied, and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom He delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.

Cornelis Plantinga Jr.
Not the Way It's Supposed to Be
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Calvary Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2024



Our Mission - We exist to know, worship, serve, and enjoy the one true God.

Our Vision - We seek to love God completely, love others selflessly, and everywhere proclaim Christ: crucified, risen, and reigning forever.

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