

First Sunday of Advent



Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 2, 2018

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

Our opening hymn is one of our favorite Advent Hymns, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” This hymn, originally in Latin, takes us back over 1,200 years to monastic life in the 8th century. We owe it to John Mason Neale (1864) for the version that we know and love today.

The lyrics, combined with the VENI EMMANUEL tune, are meant to communicate something very important about the season of Advent. In the present age of redemptive history, the Christian life is to oscillate between two poles: the overflowing joy of the “already” redeemed (Ephesians 1:7) and the tearful yearning for the “not-yet” redeemed (Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:18). Until Christ returns, the Christian is “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (II Corinthians 6:10).

The reason for this is revealed in biblical titles ascribed to Jesus in this hymn. Each one captures the “already, not-yet” aspect of our redemption:

- As Emmanuel (Isaiah 8:8), “God with us.” — He will pay the ransom that only a God-man can pay.
- As Rod of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1) springing from a dead stump, He will free his people, by death and resurrection, from Satan’s tyranny, and make them free forever.
- As the Day-spring (Luke 1:78), the dawn of God’s kingdom, He will be the light of the world and banish the hopelessness of darkness.
- As the Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), He rescues us from hell, locks the door behind us, unlocks the door of heaven, and brings us home.
- And as the Desire of nations (Haggai 2:7), He will draw the ransomed from every people and make them a kingdom of peace.

That is why the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is so important for the church to sing because this is who Jesus is! This is what He has already achieved and has promised to complete. With every verse, the refrain reaches down into our weak and mournful hearts and pulls up, in faith, joy!

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Wake, Awake for Night is Flying” J.S. Bach
Samuel Metzger, organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” . . Duane Funderburk
Clay Hancock, violin; Chris Langston, cello

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE
Kathy Kelley, Maxine Lindseth, and Peggy Sichveland (8:15)
Kevin and Kelsie Ellison (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” arr. Paul Wohlgenuth

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source the ending, He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

*The Chancel Choir
Calvin Ellis, director*

CALL TO WORSHIPBarton Kimbro

✦HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 194 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

✦INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Selected Verses From Isaiah..... Shelley Hill (8:15)
Will Stevens (11:00)

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.**

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.

So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,

and his glory from the rising of the sun;

for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the Lord drives

**"And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord.**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Carol of Joy" Dan Forrest

Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry; brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in; then through the stillness, carols begin.

O fallen world, to you is the song! Death holds you fast and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy; sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; cold, barren hillside shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night, hear angel music, hopeful and bright.

O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God and pardon for wrong.
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound, carol of joy a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, sad-hearted! Witness God's love; join in the carol swelling above!

O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn: now unto you, carol of joy, a Savior is born!

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Mike Stokke

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)..... Brian Lewis

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Please stand*)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Prepare the Royal Highway" .BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Choir:

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
The hope of ev'ry nation, God's promise of salvation.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

♠ Congregation stands and sings:

2. We wait our Sav - ior's com - ing, our own e - ter - nal King!
3. Come fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised King!
4. Christ's is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Long prom - ised by the proph - ets, let heav'n with prais - es ring.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es join to sing.
His rule se - cures our free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Our hope is ev - er grow - ing, God's peace to all be - stow - ing.
of hope and peace a - bound - ing, of joy to heav'n re - sound - ing.
Hope, peace, and joy our trea - sure, God's love a - bove all meas - ure.

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

SCRIPTURE LESSON Revelation 21:1, 5
(pages 1041 in pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

SERMON *The Reimagining Power of Advent: New Reality* George Robertson

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All those who have publicly professed their faith and joined a Christian church as a communing member are warmly welcomed to receive communion today. Non-communing worshipers are encouraged to contemplate the love of Jesus Christ during this time and pass by the elements. At Second Presbyterian, we encourage our children not to take communion until they have joined the church as communicant members. We do, however, encourage non-communing children to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Those wishing to be served communion together as a group or family, please stand together in front of the two serving elders before taking the elements. All communion wafers are gluten free.

✦PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

✦GLORIA PATRI GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen!**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and Gracious Father,
You have a most scandalous way of rescuing proud people:
The One who possesses real authority to assert His rights
lays them aside to humbly serve and die for us.
We beseech Your forgiveness for our pride,
which has destroyed our ability to truly love and care for others.
We confess that selfish ambition
has caused squabbling and discord among us.
Pardon us for our status-seeking ways
and consume us with the only status that matters:
proximity to You, our humble Lord.
For we pray in the Name of the One
to whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess —
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON Romans 4:25-5:2

*...who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through 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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

For those unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat. Throughout this time of communion, we invite you to join in singing the hymn printed in bold below.

“What Grace Is Mine” Kristyn Getty

**What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light
Called through the night to find my distant soul.
And from His scars poured mercy that would plead for me
That I might live and in His name be known.**

*So I will go wherever He is calling me;
I lose my life to find my life in Him.
I give my all to gain the hope that never dies;
I bow my heart, take up my cross, and follow Him.*

**What grace is mine to know His breath alive in me
Beneath His wings my wakened soul may soar.
All fear can flee for death’s dark night is overcome;
My Savior lives and reigns forevermore.**

I bow my heart, take up my cross, and follow Him.

“Before the Throne of God Above” Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook

**Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is “Love,” who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav’n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God.
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

“Fullness of Grace” Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend

Fullness of grace in man’s human frailty — this is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside His power and glory, humbly He entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth, scandal of a virgin birth,
Born in a stable, cold and rejected, here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father, shown in the face of Jesus;
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity, walking the Calvary road.
Christ, the holy Innocent, took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected, crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for; promise of God in Jesus.
Through His obedience, we are forgiven, opening the floodgates of heaven.
All our hopes and dreams we bring, gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable, God’s gift in love to the world.

Mary Grace Walters and Jauna Ellis, duet

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦HYMN OF RESPONSE ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.**

✦BENEDICTION *(Please lift hands)*

♣ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on "Joy to the World" Michael Dell

♣ Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

Instrumentalists: Clay Hancock, Steve Hancock, Betty Eubank, Kenneth Coca, Chris Langston, Dee Walker, Stephanie Hancock, Stewart Plumlee, Marian Shaffer

The Reimagining Power of Advent: New Reality

December 2, 2018

I. Future

II. Past

Hangin' of the Green

Please join us for worship this evening at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. Our children's choirs will lead us in music, and the evening will conclude with the decorating of the church grounds, activities for children, and a live nativity.

Christmas Flower Order Form

I/We wish to contribute \$_____ to the Flower Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church for use in decorating the church for the Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones. Please acknowledge the gift (omitting the amount) in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23 as follows:

Please check **ONLY** one: In Memory of In Honor of In Gratitude for

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Telephone number of donor: _____

December 16 is the deadline for the inclusion of names in the bulletin on December 23, 2018. Please return this form with your check made out to Second Presbyterian Church and send to 4055 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38111. Clearly designate the gift for the "Flower Ministry." An online order form is available at 2pc.org/flowers.