

Second Sunday of Advent

ADVENT

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order for the  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 9, 2018

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” is our Advent Hymn of Praise. It is one of the most biblically rich hymns we sing as there are no fewer than thirty scriptural allusions or biblical thoughts to be found in its four verses. No wonder it is one of our favorites!

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in 1744 and while it touches on many of the same themes we see in other Advent hymns, this hymn pays special attention to the missional reason of Jesus’ birth.

Wesley was very familiar with the hardships and depravity of the world. In England, abject poverty surrounded Wesley, as did the growing number of orphans, which gave him grave concern. Many years before the writing of this hymn, Wesley also visited America on a mission. While there he saw slavery in its rawest form and was so shaken by the evil of it, he nearly had a nervous breakdown. For the decades that followed, Wesley would write sermons and hymns that focused on giving hope to the hopeless. “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” was no exception.

There are several petitions in this hymn, all of which have the cumulative effect of creating a prayer of supplication, imploring Christ to come again and dwell with His people. For though we know Christ goes with us and before us each day, we long for the day we are with Him in the fullness of glory, when all effects of sin are no more and justice reigns!

*Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring!*

## COME, AND EXALT HIS GREATNESS

### ORGAN PRELUDE:

Celtic Toccata on “Angels We Have Heard on High” . . . . . Grimoaldo Macchia  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

### INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE:

Pastorale from “Christmas Concerto No. 3” . . . . . Francesco Manfredini

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Chris, Crystal, Nicholas, Davanie and Marco Vitullo (8:15)  
Warren Curtis, Ben Summer, Caroline Williamson, and Estelle Curtis (11:00)

### CHORAL INTROIT: “Creator of the Stars of Night” . . . . . 9th Century Plainchant

Creator of the stars of night, Your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You, hear us when we call.

At Your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*The Chancel Choir  
Christy Young, soloist  
Calvin Ellis, director*

### CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Brett Wynne

♠HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” . . . . . HYFRYDOL

♠INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

Christians, what do we believe concerning the Incarnation?

**We confess that God fulfilled the promise  
made to the early fathers and mothers  
by the mouth of the holy prophets  
when He sent the only and eternal Son of God  
into the world at the time appointed.  
The Son took the “form of a slave”  
and was made in “human form,”  
truly assuming a real human nature,  
with all its weaknesses, except for sin;  
being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation.  
And Christ not only assumed human nature  
as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul,  
in order to be a real human being.  
For since the soul had been lost as well as the body,  
Christ had to assume them both to save them both together.**

*The Belgic Confession, a comprehensive statement in 37 articles of the  
Christian Reformed faith, is one of the best-known and well-loved of the  
Reformed confessions. It highlights the continuity between the Reformed tradition  
and the early church by modeling teaching of the ancient Apostles Creed.*

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . VENI EMMANUEL

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

## COME, AND EXPERIENCE HIS GRACE

### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious Father, who faithfully fulfilled Your promise of redemption  
through the advent of Your one and only Son,  
we confess with broken hearts  
that we have continued in our sin and rebellion  
and have grieved You with our callous hearts.  
Please forgive us for all our sins,  
for we are truly sorry and do earnestly repent.  
Restore and renew our spirits by Your grace  
that we may draw near to You, obey You,  
enjoy You, and glorify Your matchless Name,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON . . . . . Matthew 1:21

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.*

### WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”. . . . . arr. Mack Wilberg

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
  
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;  
Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the Babe was born for you.

♠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. . . . . Josh Preston

♠GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15). . . . . Will Nease

### COME, AND ENJOY HIS FREEDOM

♠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*please stand*)

**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. Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Comfort Comfort Ye My People" . . . . .PSALM 42

*Choir:*

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

♠*Congregation stands and sings:*



2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



bid - ding all to true re - pent - ance, since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a - way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON..... Revelation 21:2  
(page 1041 in the 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 Righteousness*                      George Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 195 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” . . ANTIOCH

✦BENEDICTION (please raise hands)

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE..... GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on “He Is Born the Divine Christ Child” . . Denis Bédard

✦Indicates congregation standing                      CCLI License #252778

*Instrumentalists: Barrie Cooper, Erin Kaste, Jessie Munson, Clay Hancock, Steve Hancock,  
Betty Eubank, Arron Powell, Ruth Burgess, Diego Rodriguez*

**The Reimagining Power of Advent: New Righteousness**                      December 9, 2018

**I. Source**

A. From Heaven

B. From God

**II. Savior**

A. Record

B. Ability