

Third Sunday of Advent



Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 16, 2018

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

The hymn of praise, “Angels, from the Realms of Glory,” was written by James Montgomery in 1816. When he was a young boy, Montgomery’s parents died on the mission field in the West Indies. Following his parents’ death, Montgomery wandered from the faith and lived as a vagabond until his early twenties, when he found employment at Sheffield Register, a local newspaper. It was there his gift for poetry was cultivated and he returned to the Christian faith. Like his parents before him, he became a strong advocate for the oppressed and developed a deep passion for missions.

On Christmas Eve 1816, while reading the second chapter of Luke, Montgomery was struck by the diversity of people who worshipped Jesus and celebrated the Good News of His coming. Later that evening he was inspired to write this hymn.

Each verse highlights a specific people group who worshipped Christ:

- The Angels’ song (stanza one)
- The Shepherds’ adoration (stanza two)
- The Sages’ gifts (stanza three)
- The Saints’ praise in heaven (stanza four)

Of course, Montgomery didn’t merely wish to recount Jesus’ birth narrative. Stanza five reveals Montgomery’s missional goal for this hymn. His desire was for people from every tribe and language and people and nation to join the great choir of heaven and worship Christ as King!

On this third Sunday of Advent, let us come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

ADORE THE SHEPHERD KING

ORGAN PRELUDE: Variations on “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” Denis Bédard
Samuel Metzger, organ

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
Josh Berkey, Lindsey Hearon, and Robert Vestal (8:15)
Kelton and Barbara Morris (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: “Earth Was Waiting, Spent and Restless” . . Traditional French Carol

Earth was waiting, spent and restless, with a mingled hope and fear,
Faithful men and women praying, ‘surely, Lord, the day is near:
The Desire of all the nations — it is time He should appear!

Then the Spirit of the Highest to a virgin meek came down,
And He burdened her with blessing, and He pained her with renown;
For she bore the Lord’s anointed for His cross and for His crown.

Earth has groaned and labored for Him since the ages first began,
For in Him was hid the secret which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David, Son of God, and Son of Man.

*The Chancel Choir
Jerry Bowman, soloist
Calvin Ellis, director*

CALL TO WORSHIP Todd Erickson

♠HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 218 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE

♠INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

**And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with great fear.**

And the angel said to them,
“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.**

And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.”

**And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

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

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

8:15 a.m.

Lawrence Keith Jensen III, born June 1, 2018, son of Kathryne and Luke Jensen

11:00 a.m.

Sawyer Winborn Willingham, born May 3, 2018, son of Laura and Trent Willingham

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT: “Jesus Loves You” JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so;
Little ones to Him belong, you are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so.**

RECEIVE THE GRACIOUS KING

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and holy Father,
we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept Your pardoning grace
but also our refusal to forgive others.
We confess our eagerness to receive Your redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow You without question.
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.
Come to us anew, and by Your grace, transform us to receive You
with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary; with love, as You have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus, come.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON..... Isaiah 40:1-2

*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

For many years Second's Caring Ministry has provided financial assistance to our members and to those in the Memphis community. Today you have an opportunity to contribute to this fund. A special envelope is available in the pew rack.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Round the Glory Manger"K. Lee Scott

They turn 'way Mary an' a Joseph, 'way from the inn.

An' that's what made the Glory Manger.
An' a Hallelujah, an' a Hallelujah, Lord!
Wasn't that a bright mornin', all 'round the Glory Manger.

They laid my pretty little Jesus down in the straw.

An' all His pretty little fingers played in the straw.

Samuel Johnson, soloist

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. Brett Powell

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15). Peggy Stephens

TRUST THE SOVEREIGN KING

✦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: "He Is Born"IL EST NÉ

Choir:
He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior's birth.
Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold His coming;
Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior's birth.

✦Congregation stands and sings:

Refrain
Unison

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; play the o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly!

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; sing we all of the Sav - ior's birth.

Fine

Parts

2. O how love-ly, O how pure is this per-fect Child of heav-en;
 3. Je-sus, Lord of all the world, com-ing as a Child a-mong us;

D.C.

O how love-ly, O how pure, gra-cious gift to hu-man-kind!
 Je-sus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heav'n-ly peace.

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. 224 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"..... GO TELL IT

♠BENEDICTION (please raise hands)

♠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE..... GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Un Flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle" Denis Bédard

♠Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

The Reimagining Power of Advent: New Righteousness

I. Source

A. From Heaven

B. From God

II. Savior

A. Record

B. Ability