



ORDER FOR THE  
**PUBLIC WORSHIP** *of* **GOD**

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 1, 2019

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*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 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.

The hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is 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 and joy!

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: “From Heav’n Above I Come to You” . . . . arr. Johann Pachelbel  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: “Advent Carols” . . . . . Paul Roberts  
*Chamber Orchestra; Paul Roberts, harpsichord*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE  
Chad, Lindley, Luke, Charlie, Miles, and Way Jackson (8:15)  
Sarah Lewis and Meghan Rintoul (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” . . . . . arr. Paul Wohlgemuth  
*Words: Henry Baker / Music: Paul Wohlgemuth / John 1:1*

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!

*The Chancel Choir  
Calvin Ellis, director*

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Brandon Terry

✦PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 194 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” . . . VENI EMMANUEL  
*Words: John Mason Neale / Music: Thomas Helmore / Isaiah 59:20*

✦INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Selected Verses From Isaiah . . . . . Grace Knight (8:15)  
Becca Sloan (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

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or text SECOND followed by the gift amount to (901) 410-9500.*

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OFFERTORY ANTHEM “And the Glory of the Lord” . . . . . G.F. Handel

*Music: George Frideric Handel / Isaiah 40:5*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

✦DOXOLOGY . . . . . OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING . . . . . Barton Kimbro

✦GREETINGS

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Please stand*)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Earth Was Waiting, Spent and Restless" . . . . .PICARDY

Words: W.C. Smith / Music: Traditional French Carol / Galatians 4:4

Choir:

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!"

♠ Congregation stands and sings:

2. Then the Spir - it of the High - est to a vir - gin  
3. Earth has groaned and la - bored for him since the a - ges

meek came down, and he bur - dened her with bless - ing,  
first be - gan, for in him was hid the se - cret

and he pained her with re - nown; for she bore the Lord's A -  
which through all the a - ges ran — Son of Mar - y, Son of

point - ed for his cross and for his crown.  
Da - vid, Son of God, and Son of Man.

SCRIPTURE LESSON. . . . . Luke 1:5-25 and 57-66  
(pages 855 in pew Bible)

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

SERMON *The Ordinary People of Christmas:* Todd Erickson  
*Elizabeth and Zechariah*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*This is the Lord's table. All who profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are invited to receive communion. If this is not your faith, we would still encourage you to walk forward, knowing that no one will make you take the elements. Any of our elders or pastors will be happy to talk to you about questions or doubts you have about faith in Christ. We encourage children not to take communion until they have joined the church but do welcome them to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat.*

*For those in the balcony, please remain seated, and the elements will be served to you in your pew. 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

*During this time, we invite you to join in singing the hymns printed in bold below.*

“Fullness of Grace” ..... Getty, Townend

*Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend / John 1:14-16*

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.

*Mandy Webb and Tabitha Wadkins, duet*

“What Child Is This” ..... GREENSLEEVES

*Words: William Dix / Matthew 2:2*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

“Joy to the World” ..... ANTIOCH

*Words: Isaac Watts / Music: George Frideric Handel / Psalm 98:4*

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

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

♠HYMN OF RESPONSE..... ANTIOCH

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

♠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

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*Instrumentalists: Kenneth Coca, cello; Paul Roberts, harpsichord; Brad Jones, piano; Betty Eubank and Clay Hancock, viola; Aubrey Mills, James Ryan, and Steve Hancock, violin*

## HANGING *of the* GREEN

Celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with us tonight, beginning at 6:00. We'll gather for worship in the Sanctuary and be led in worship by our children's choirs. Then we'll decorate the campus on our way to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. The evening will conclude with a live nativity outdoors.

While in the Fellowship Hall, pick up materials for Advent, compiled by our Children's Ministry, including books, instructions about communicating with our missionaries during the holidays, and more. Also, sign up there for a special service opportunity with the Neighborhood Christian Centers.

### 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 22 as follows:

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

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*December 15 is the deadline for the inclusion of names in the bulletin on December 22, 2019.  
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."  
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