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*The First Sunday of Advent*

HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 29, 2020

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*The season of Advent covers the month of Sundays before Christmas. Traditionally, Christians have used this season as a time of preparation for Christ's coming. Yes, Jesus has already come, died for our sins, been raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. But, this intentional observance of Advent can be a help to us as we remember the reasons for Jesus' coming – his love for us & our need of rescue – and are reminded that he is coming again – to consummate his kingdom.*

*In addition to an emphasis on these themes during normal Sunday morning worship, Christians have often added an additional worship service on Christmas Eve. That service of 'Lessons & Carols' is a series of Scriptures readings (Lessons) which are each followed by a musical reflection (Carol) that relates to the particular passage.*

*The season of Advent is a chance for followers of Christ to be reminded of the gospel message and to better prepare themselves for another year of seeking to follow Jesus in faithfulness.*



*a liturgy for corporate worship on*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~ November 29, 2020 ~

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*Welcome*

*Call to Worship*

What is the church?

**God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.**

Beloved in Christ, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,

**And to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

*~ New City Catechism, question 48  
& Hebrews 12.22-24 & 28-29*

## Jesus Strong And Kind

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.  
No one else can satisfy; I should come to him.

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to him.  
No one else can be my strength; I should come to him.

*For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus;  
Jesus strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to him.  
No one else can be my shield; I should come to him.

Jesus said if I am lost, he will come to me.  
And he showed me on that cross, he will come to me.

*CityAlight, 2019 (Colin Buchanan, Jonny Robinson,  
Michael Farren & Rich Thompson)*

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity.

*Words: Reginald Heber, d. 1826*

*Music: John B. Dykes, 1861*

### **Gloria Patri**

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.

*Text: Translated from 2<sup>nd</sup> century Latin*

*Tune: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851*

### ***New Testament Reading***

*John 14.15-19 & 25-27*

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

*These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

### ***Pastoral Prayer***

*Eric Winship, elder*

### ***The Offering***

*(10 o'clock service)*

**Isaiah 43.1-7**

- 1 But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.
- 3 For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
- 4 Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.
- 5 Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.
- 6 I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
- 7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

### ***The Covenant Meal***

*There are four tables around the sanctuary that are supplied with individual, pre-packaged communion elements. To reduce the amount of movement and allow plenty of space between people, please send one person to get the elements for those partaking of communion in your household. Please hold the elements until all have received and then we will partake together.*

*To help with a more sanitary clean-up, please take used communion cups and place them in the trash cans by the exit doors as you leave.*

## *Parting Hymn*

### **Joy to the World!**

*no. 195*

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!

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.

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.

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (based on Psalm 98)*

*Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742*

*Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836*

## *Benediction*

*Numbers 6.24-26*

*The LORD bless you and keep you.*

*The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.*

*The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*Through Jesus, our King and our Savior. Amen.*

# HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## **Reminders:**

### **Covid Policies**

- Please wear your mask and be mindful of social-distancing. Masks may be removed once you are seated in your pew.
- The Fellowship Hall may be utilized during the service as overflow.
- After the service, please do not congregate in the Foyer, but move beyond the fireplace into the Fellowship Hall or directly outside.
- The door by the piano is reserved for those wishing to avoid the higher traffic areas of the Foyer & Fellowship Hall.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

We will hold our annual service of *Lessons & Carols* in-person on Thursday, December 24, at 6pm. We will also livestream the service to our Facebook page. This is a traditional Christmas Eve service in which there is a series of Scriptures read (*Lessons*), each of which is followed by a musical reflection (*Carol*) that relates to that passage. All of our current Covid protocols will be in place. While in the past we have had a meal together immediately following the service, we will *not* be doing that this year.

### **Offerings**

In addition to passing the plate during the 10 o'clock service, there is also a box at the back of the sanctuary in which you can place your offering. A third option is giving online through the [Resources tab](#) on our website.

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