
The Second Sunday of Advent

HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 6, 2020

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 these ways, Advent is a season of longing.

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 narrative, to willingly enter into the watching & waiting of Christian discipleship and to better prepare themselves for another year of seeking to follow Jesus in faithfulness.



a liturgy for corporate worship on

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~ December 6, 2020 ~

Call to Worship

Psalm 95.1-3

Beloved, come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

O Come All Ye Faithful

no. 208

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born, this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Words: Latin Hymn, attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751

Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music: John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

no. 296

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

Words: Edward Perronet (vv1-5), 1779; John Rippon (v6), 1787

Music: Oliver Holden, 1793

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*For he alone is worthy. For he alone is worthy.
For he alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.*

*We'll give him all the glory. We'll give him all the glory.
We'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord.*

'O Come, All Ye Faithful', additional choruses:

Confession of Faith

*New City Catechism, question 49,
Ephesians 1.20-23 & Hebrews 7.23-25*

Where is Christ now?

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

But Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

(10 o'clock service)

Isaiah 43.8-15

- 8 Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!
- 9 All the nations gather together,
and the peoples assemble.
Who among them can declare this,
and show us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right,
and let them hear and say, It is true.
- 10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.
- 11 I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.
- 12 I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God.
- 13 Also henceforth I am he;
there is none who can deliver from my hand;
I work, and who can turn it back?"
- 14 Thus says the LORD,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I send to Babylon
and bring them all down as fugitives,
even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.
- 15 I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King."

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

no. 203

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."

Words: Charles Wesley, 1753

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

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.

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Reminders:

Covid Policies

- Please wear your mask and be mindful of social-distancing. Masks may be removed when you are seated in your pew.
- The Fellowship Hall may be utilized during the service as overflow.
- The nurseries & classrooms may be used as family / cry rooms. Note, they are not staffed and parents must be with their children.
- After the service, please do not congregate in the Foyer, but move beyond the fireplace into the Fellowship Hall or directly outside.

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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