
The Third Sunday of Advent

HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 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.

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. In these ways, Advent is a season of longing, inviting the Christian to join his or her voice with all the saints, as together we cry, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."

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 – all of which is designed to draw us into the drama of redemption.

a liturgy for corporate worship on

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~ December 13, 2020 ~

Call to Worship

Psalm 85.4-7

Restore us, O God of our salvation. Put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

What Child Is This?

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.

Why comes he thus in humble dress, born 'midst the sheep – a Lord, a King?
“Hear,” child of sod, “Behold your God!” Who with his subjects dwelling.
This, this the Lamb of God: for sinners slain – salvation bought.
Kneel, kneel before the throne, the babe, the son of Mary.

(song continues on the next page ...)

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.

*Words: Traditional English carol
Music: English Melody, 16th cent.*

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

*Praise the Lord: His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn'
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment his life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

Matt Boswell & Matt Papa, 2016

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the LORD will give what is good. Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way. *(Psalm 85.10-13)*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

Pastoral Prayer

Mastin Robeson, elder

The Offering

In addition to passing the plate during the 10:45 service, there is a secure box at the back of the sanctuary in which you can place offerings OR you can contribute online through the 'Resources' page on the church website (harvestpres.com).

The Preaching of God's Word
"provision in the wilderness"

BEHOLD YOUR GOD! *The Gospel in Isaiah*
Grant Beachy, pastor

Isaiah 43.16-28
(p604 in pew Bible)



What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

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

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments of our suff'ring seem so long;
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring threaten silence to our song.
Now our pain is real and pressing where our faith is thin and weak,
But our hope is set on Jesus; and we cling to him, our strength.

Oh eternal weight of glory! Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming every past and future time.
All our pains will be transfigured, like the scars of Christ our Lord.
We will see the weight of glory, and our broken years restored.

*For behold! I tell a myst'ry: at the trumpet sound we'll wake.
"Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!" when we meet our King of grace.
Every year we thought was wasted, every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment in our Savior's vict'ry song*

We will see our wounded Savior. We'll behold him face to face;
And we'll hear our anguished stories sung as vict'ry songs of grace.

Wendell Kimbrough, 2015

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.

Deployed Personnel & Their Families

Caleb & Lauren Smith (Juliet & Noelle)

Chris & Aubrey Maldonado

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