



HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a liturgy for corporate worship

December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent

*When God deigns to lavish goodness on his people, he
does it with a certain naturalness reflective of the depths
of who he is. For God to be merciful is for God to be God.*

(Dane Ortlund, Gentle & Lowly)

*I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious,
and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

(Exodus 33.19)

*The Lord will not cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief,
he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.*

(Lamentations 3.31-33)

HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

worship, nurture & service

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:30
Fellowship	10:15
Worship	10:45
Family Dinner	5pm (1 st Sundays)

REMINDERS

Holiday Schedule

Please note our *Service of Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve*, beginning at 5pm with a potluck meal to follow. Please arrive no later than 4:45 so that you may get your food dropped off and enter the sanctuary to enjoy the musical prelude. Also note that though the worship service will begin at the normal time (10:45), there will be *no Sunday School* the day after Christmas (Dec 26).

Heart To Heart

Please notice and take advantage of the table in the foyer supporting *Heart To Heart Orphans Care*. This ministry serves the many needs of orphans in and around the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Also, there is an *informational meeting* next Sunday, December 19, following worship, about the trip being planned to Kenya for late April / early May.

Offerings

In addition to passing the plate during the worship service, there is 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.

Missions Conference

Please note the dates for our upcoming Missions Conference: **January 28-30**. Nursery will be provided for the conference. Stay tuned for RSVP information for both meals & nursery.

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Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 103.8-14

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay
us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is
his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as
the east is from the west, so far does he remove our
transgressions from us.

**As a father shows compassion to his children, so the
LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.**

For he knows our frame;

He remembers that we are dust.

Invocation

from The Book of Common Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your
messenger to prepare the way before you, grant that the
ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so
prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts
of the disobedient to wisdom and righteousness, that at
your second coming to judge the world, we may be found
an acceptable people in your sight, who lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world
without end. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.

O equal to the Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

O Jesu, virgin born, to Thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Who with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Words: Ambrose of Milan, d. 397

Trans. by J.M. Neale, d. 1866

Music: Michael Praetorius, d. 1609

*Let us respond to the reading of God's Word
with a season of silent prayer ...*

Confession of Faith

Lamentations 3.22-24

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies
never come to an end; they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion,"
says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Hymns of Praise

Great is Thy Faithfulness, no. 32

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor, no. 230

Pastoral Prayer

Ken Counts,
director of men's discipleship

Offering

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,
so that you by his poverty might become rich.
(2 Corinthians 8.9)*

The Preaching of God's Word

"to whom shall we go?"

John 6.60-71

BELIEVE & LIVE

Grant Beachy, pastor



The Covenant Meal

The elements of bread and wine are simple and yet by God's power and his Spirit's blessing are both a sign and seal of God's love. For those who are not believing in Jesus, this meal is a sign of the sacrificial love of Jesus for those who acknowledge their need of him. For those who are believing in Jesus, this is not only a sign of these things, it is also a seal to their hearts, that indeed the Gospel is true and that his love for them is real.

Parting Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, no. 203

The 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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HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*exists by the providence and grace of God
to develop and equip God's people for their calling
to glorify and enjoy him in all of life through
worship, nurture & service*

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Meeting at:

900 Piney Green Rd

Mail to:

PO Box 12243

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A Note About ADVENT

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 further into the drama of redemption.