



HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a liturgy for corporate worship

December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*The tongue of the nursing infant
sticks to the roof of its mouth for thirst;
the children beg for food, but no one gives to them.*

*Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles in the heavens;
they chased us on the mountains;
they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.*

*Our eyes failed, ever watching vainly for help;
in our watching we watched
for a nation which could not save.*

(from Lamentations 4)

*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."
And let the one who hears say, "Come."*

*He who testifies to these things says,
"Surely I am coming soon."*

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

(from Revelation 22)

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

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* TODAY, following worship, about the trip being planned to Kenya for late April / early May. Please stick around after the service for more details.

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* next Sunday (Dec 26).

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

Romans 8.11-17

Beloved, if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

So then, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

For if we live according to the flesh we will die, but if by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body, we will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Invocation

from The Book of Common Prayer

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might comfort us; that, although our sins and wickedness hinder us in running the race set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may readily help and deliver us, through the satisfaction of your Son, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, no. 196

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 4

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

Word of Encouragement

from Romans 8.18-24

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell*. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* 'hell' here means the realm of death, not 'place of eternal torment'

** 'catholic' here means 'universal'

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, no. 198

Pastoral Prayer

Mastin Robeson, elder

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
"misunderstood & mistreated"

BELIEVE & LIVE
Grant Beachy, pastor

John 7.1-36



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

O Little Town of Bethlehem, no. 201

Concluding Prayer

from The Book of Common Worship

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ promised to come again to receive his people unto himself, keep us ever watchful for his glorious appearing. Help us to set our affection on things above, and to live as those who wait for their Lord, that when he appears we may be made like him and see him as he is, through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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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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.