

tidings of comfort and joy

December 3, 2017

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Community Gathers before God

Greeting

Austin Carty

Organ Voluntary *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* by Sam Batt Owens

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;

When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die,

But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

Then let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,

When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

- ancient Greek hymn

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Alex Lockridge

Why light a candle that will burn out?

The message of this candle cannot be quenched.

It speaks of hope –

hope greater than fear,

hope larger than despair,

hope stronger than death.

We await the prophesied hope of the world,

wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

In faith we light this candle of hope.

+Hymn 79

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

+Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

Forgive us, God of power and might, for failing to live in service to Your will.

We have sought our own paths instead of Your way.

We bow to the demands of this world

more than we seek Your coming kingdom.

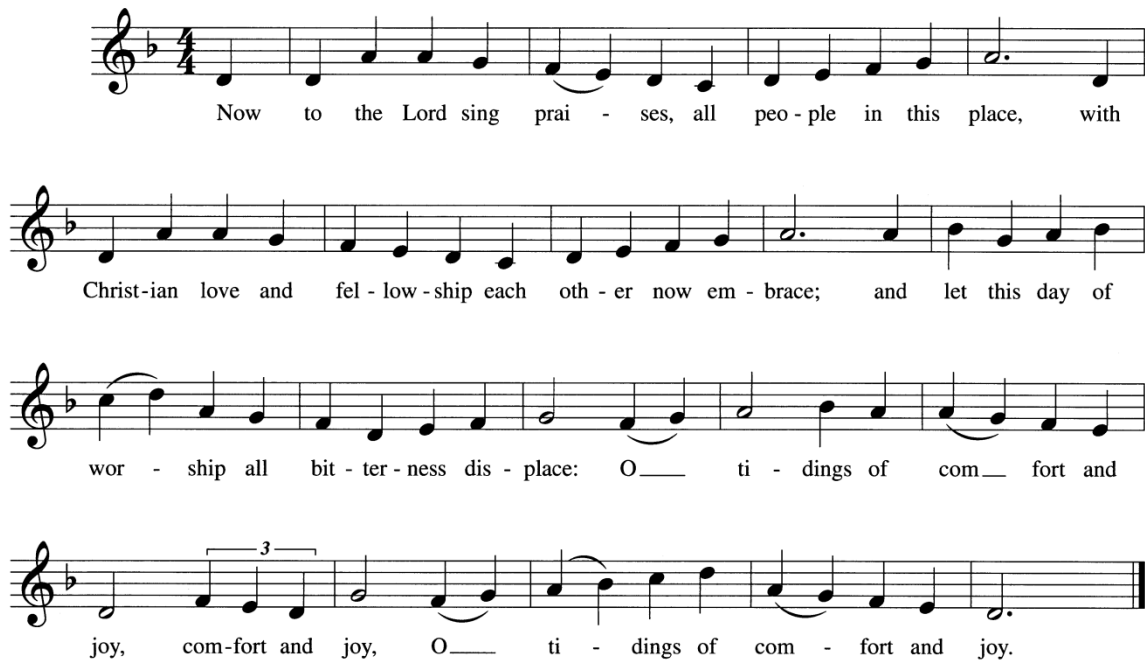
Yet You, O God, are our Creator and we are the work of Your hand.

Forgive us when we go astray, and rule in our hearts,

so that every moment we may be ready to serve You. Amen.

+Response

GOD REST YOU MERRY



Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all peo - ple in this place, with
Christ-ian love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace; and let this day of
wor - ship all bit - ter - ness dis - place: O___ ti - dings of com___ fort and
joy, com-fort and joy, O___ ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

- 18th century English carol

The Community Hears and Proclaims God's Word

Children's Sermon

Alex Lockridge

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 80

setting by Hal Hopson



Lord, come soon; come to___ save us, Lord, come soon.

O Shepherd, hear and lead Your flock, as lambs, we crave Your care;

*What strength from You can earth afford, what mercies can compare? **REFRAIN***

Restore to us a saving faith, the radiance of Your face

*To lighten, to reveal the gift of Your redeeming grace. **REFRAIN***

- Michael Morgan

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches: I Corinthians 1:3-9

Austin Carty

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

A Reading from the Gospels: Mark 13:24-27

Paul Sims

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

“Tidings of Comfort and Joy”

Austin Carty

The Community Shares in Christ's Life

+Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Austin Carty & Alex Lockridge

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(the Great Prayer continues)

... therefore, with hearts lifted high, we offer You praise and thanksgiving

at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who continues to teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Breaking the Bread

While We Are Waiting, Come

by Don Cason

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics written below it. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, also with lyrics below it. The lyrics are: 'While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come. With power and glo - ry, come; with power and glo - ry, come. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come. Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.'

While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come.
With power and glo - ry, come; with power and glo - ry, come.
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

- Claire Cloninger

Sharing the Cup

An Advent Prayer

by Allen Pote

Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin. Come holy Jesus, and make us pure within.

+The Peace

Paul Sims

*The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.*

+Hymn

Christ Is Coming! Let Creation

CWM RHONDDA

please see insert

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Colleen Darabant

Loose change received in December will benefit our church's Cold Weather Ministries.

Offertory Anthem

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

by Michael Helman

*O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven's crown.
O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, when will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light we grope in gloom and dark of night.
Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand from exile to our promised land.
Then shall we all our praises bring ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore forever and forevermore.*

- 17th century German

+Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

*To You, O Christ, all glory be, whose advent sets Your people free;
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

The Community Departs for Ministry

+Commission and Blessing

Austin Carty, Alex Lockridge, & Paul Sims

... and may the Holy Spirit guide you in faithful living until Christ comes. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Glad Tidings

by Alice Jordan

+all who are able may stand

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Gayle Majors, Organist Ann Hacker, Pianist

Joshua Walden, candle lighter

Advent banners are the work of Mary Ida and Larry Gray

Communion bread baked by Sue Mills

*The Advent wreath is given in loving memory of
Felix and Mattie Pace & Leonard and Marie Leake*

by

Kevin and Sherry Pace

Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, and Harrison Lowe