First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Second Sunday of Advent
Contemporary Service
December 5, 2021



CONGREGATIONAL SONGS OF PRAISE

Shine, Jesus Shine — **Graham Kendrick**

Chorus
Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Verse 1
Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 2
Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 3
As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

Soon and Very Soon — **Andre Crouch**

Verse 1
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King

Chorus
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

Verse 2
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King

Verse 3
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING — Beth Peters and Lydia

Leader: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.
People: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—
Leader: peace that rests between us and our grief,
People: peace around our anxiety,
Leader: peace between us and our self-criticism,
People: peace amidst our relationships,
Leader: peace at the core of our being,
People: peace hovering through and in our world.
Leader: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.
People: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.
Leader: Let it be so. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE — #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel — **VENI EMMANUEL**

2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SONG OF PRAISE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus — **Meredith Andrews**

Verse 1
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 every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2
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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, when John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting your peace is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:57-80 Beth Peters

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Prepare the Way: A Foundation of Peace"

SONG OF PRAISE

Waiting for You **Hannah Lee Rand**

Verse 1
The earth cries out nothing feels right
The world cries out no justice in sight
Fires burning everywhere
Too many too hot too bright

Chorus 1
We are waiting for you (2X)
We are waiting for that
Gloria in excelsis Deo (2X)

Verse 2
The child cries out don't turn out the light
Broken hearts cry out no end of hurt in sight
Greed and guns rule everywhere
Too many too strong to fight

Chorus 2
We are waiting for you (2X)
We are waiting for that
Gloria in excelsis Deo (3X)

Bridge
Let us be a sign of hope
Let us be your arms of love
Let us be the ones that say
There is another way
(REPEAT)

Chorus 3
We are waiting for you
You are waiting for us too
We are waiting for that
Gloria in excelsis Deo (3X)

Ending
We are waiting for you
You are waiting for us too

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…
As our Savior Christ has taught us, so now we 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming **Traditional Carol**

SONG OF PRAISE

All Belong Here **Hannah Lee Rand**

Verse 1
When you're not sure who you really are
When all you feel is the shape of your scars
And you have more wounds than you can count
Open your eyes look all around
You aren't alone this is your home

Chorus
Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

Verse 2
When you don't know how to forgive
When locked doors seem like the only way to live
And you've got more questions than you can count
Open your eyes look all around
You aren't alone this is your home

Bridge
At this table come as you are
Broken and bleeding's ok
At this table eat and be filled
Come and drink in this grace

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE