

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

## First Sunday of Advent

### Combined Service

November 28, 2021



### *The Service for the Lord's Day*

#### WE GATHER

PRELUDE Come Lord Jesus, Quickly Come  
Contemporary Ensemble

Nathan Jess

#### Verse 1

Come Lord Jesus quickly come  
Come and heal I pray  
In the shelter of Your love  
Let me see Your face

#### Chorus

Ever faithful always good  
Lover of my soul  
Come unto the children lost  
Make Your people whole

#### Verse 2

Come Lord Jesus quickly come  
I am longing still  
Overwhelm my heart with love  
Moved to do Your will

#### Mid-Section

Awake my soul  
Come like the thunder  
O gentle whisper

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Rich and Barbara Hjorth

Leader: We hope for a world where all are fed.

**People: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.**

Leader: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

**People: We hope for a world where all people feel at home –  
in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes and  
communities.**

Leader: We hope for that world.

**People: We long for that world.**

Leader: We are homesick for that world.

**People: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps  
our hearts alive as we wait.**

Leader: May this light be a reminder that waiting for the Lord is  
always worth it.

**People: We are close to home. May we carry hope with us as we  
worship God.**

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

### Refrain:

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

## OPENING HYMN

#13

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

## WE CONFESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day – to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we maintain our hope, or do we give in to resignation and despair? Do we insist on a better world, or do we decide that it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to help build the world you intend for us. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### WE LISTEN

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 21:25-36

Phil Fair

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Longing for Home”

## WE RESPOND

### HYMN

Even So Come

Contemporary Ensemble

Chris Tomlin

#### Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth  
Make straight a highway a path for  
the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon

#### Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the  
saint  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon

#### Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we  
sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

#### Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new  
Your name forever faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon

#### Bridge

So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon

#### Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we  
sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we  
sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

#### Bridge

God we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
(REPEAT)

God we wait we wait for You  
Yes we wait You're coming soon  
God we wait You're coming soon oh

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

## CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Chancel Choir (see insert)

arr. Dodd Lamberton

## \*Response

#592

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

## CLOSING HYMN

#309

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

**1** Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have  
been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

**2** O ye heights of heaven adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!

**3** Christ, to Thee with God the  
Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant with high  
thanksgiving,  
And unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Here In Your Presence

Jon Egan

Contemporary Ensemble

## **Offertory**

### **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**Chancel Choir**

**arr. Dodd Lamberton**

I want to walk as a child of the light  
I want to follow Jesus  
God sent the stars to give light to the world  
The star of my life is Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God  
I want to look at Jesus  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

**Postlude**  
**Here In Your Presence**

**Jon Egan**

**Verse**

Found in Your hands fullness of joy  
Every fear suddenly wiped away  
Here in Your Presence  
All of my gains now fade away  
Every crown no longer on display  
Here in Your Presence

**Pre-Chorus**

Heaven is trembling in awe of Your wonders  
The kings and their kingdoms are standing amazed

**Chorus**

Here in Your Presence  
We are undone  
Here in Your Presence  
Heaven and earth become one  
Here in Your Presence  
All things are new  
Here in Your Presence  
Ev'rything bows before You

**Bridge**

Wonderful beautiful glorious  
Matchless in ev'ry way