

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

Verse 2
Come Lord Jesus quickly come
I am longing still
Overwhelm my heart with love
Moved to do Your will

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

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

#9

VENI EMMANUEL

Refrain:

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

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Way

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.

#13

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

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 CONFESS

PRAYER OF CONFESS

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

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

Verse 2

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

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

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

Verse 3

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

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 arr. Dodd Lamberton
Chancel Choir (see insert)

*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