
Order of Worship

December 1, 2024

Reflection

Waiting, as we see it in the first pages of the Gospel, is waiting with a sense of promise. ...People who wait have received a promise that allows them to wait. They have received something that is at work in them, like a seed that has started to grow... we can only really wait if what we are waiting for has already begun for us.

– Henri Nouwen

Prelude

As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40

Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,

People: Every mountain and hill shall be made low;

Leader: The uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain.

People: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed.

Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful

Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing (Refrain)

Prayer of Adoration

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.
Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces.
With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and
sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus
Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Prophecy Candle

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reader: We light the first candle of Advent, the Prophecy Candle. We light this candle as a visible reminder that Jesus is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: Thanks be to God!

Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God whose light fills all the earth
Whose love we see in Jesus' birth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Father, from eternity you prepared a way for our redemption through the coming of your Son. You sent your holy prophets through the generations to kindle in our hearts a holy anticipation of our blessed Savior. How we marvel that he was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. The healing for which our hearts long is found through his wounds alone. Grant us this day, therefore, a measure of your grace to genuinely confess our sins before you. Renew us in faith and love that we may welcome Christ to rule our lives, both now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

Approach My Soul, the Mercy Seat

Approach my soul, the mercy seat
Where Holy One and helpless meet
There fall before my Judge's feet
Thy promise is my only plea, O God

Send wings to lift the clutch of sin
You who dwell between the cherubim
From war without and fear within
Relieve the grief from the shoulders of crumbling men

Chorus:

O God, pour out Your mercy to me
My God, oh what striking love to bleed.

Fashion my heart in Your alchemy
With the brass to front the devil's perjury
And surefire grace my Jesus speaks
I must; I will; I do believe, Oh Lord. (Chorus)

Words of Pardon and Comfort

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for Children's
Church; they will return for Communion.)*

Prayer of Intercession *Concluded by 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.

High Desert Highlights

See 'Church Life' on p. 16

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see highdesertpca.com for more information.

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O Come, Let Us Adore Him: Songs Fit for a King

Song

Of The Father's Love Begotten

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.

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
All dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring.

Thee let age and thee let manhood,
Thee let boys in chorus sing;
Matrons, virgins, little maidens,
With glad voices answering;
Let their guileless songs reecho,
And their heart its music bring.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 15) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ.

We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Gluten-free bread is also available.

Words of Institution

Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Song

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,

The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. (Refrain)

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. (Refrain)

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where his glory forever I'll share. (Refrain)

Song

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.

It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story
proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory
was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
and in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray,
to the bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, Jesus is the center point of history, and his presence is our new beginning. Center our lives on your lavish grace that not only saves but renews us to be like Jesus. May our godly living be a fitting testimony of thanksgiving that draws others to the joyful reign of Christ the King. Amen.

Song

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;

by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

Benediction

Postlude

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Prayers

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.