

THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION
AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

The Lord’s Day, December 11, 2016

The Christian Year: The Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 AM Morning Service

“He will swallow up death forever!” Isaiah 25:8

[Please turn off cell phones and observe silence when the prelude begins.]

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship Psalm 80:14-19

Minister: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see.

People: Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the Son of man whom you have made strong for yourself.

Minister: Then we will not turn back from you; give us life and we will call upon your name!

People: Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Unison: O Come, let us adore Him!

*Hymn of Adoration No. 211
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Invocation
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*Confession of Faith From the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8 2, 5

The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, is the eternal God, one in substance and equality with the Father. At the right time, He took on Himself human nature with all its essential character and common weaknesses, yet He remained sinless. Consequently, He is authentically God and authentically human, but one Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity, who by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, has fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of

heaven, for you and all those whom the Father has given unto Him. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Tune: Gloria (Refrain)
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35

*Hymn of Approach SH, No. 14
In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Public Confession
O Source of all good, we render to you, Gift of gifts, only an impoverished soul. Before your holy righteousness, we are undone, with no will to return to you, and no intellect to devise recovery. You came, God-incarnate, to save us to the uttermost, as man to die our death, to shed satisfying blood on our behalf, to work out a perfect righteousness for us. Meanwhile, we live in selfishness, hard-heartedness, with a stiff-necked and unforgiving spirit. We are correct when we say, “There is no health in us.” We beg you, through your incarnate life and willing sacrifice, to pardon and blot out our sins. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Adapted from The Valley of Vision

Private Confession

Pastoral Prayer

The Promise of the Gospel
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 227
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Worship of God through Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology Tune: Antioch
No more let sins and sorrows grow;
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found;
Far as, far as the curse is found!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*Reading of The Holy Scriptures I Peter 5:1-5

*The Prayer for Illumination

Sermon Dr. Michael Allen
“ELDERS AND HUMBLE GLORY”

*Hymn of Response and Preparation No. 208
O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1-2)

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Invitation and Instructions
All who have professed faith in Jesus Christ and have been baptized and who are communicant members in good standing in an evangelical church are invited to come to participate in this sacred Sacrament of the Church. This is not a Presbyterian table, and we do not restrict it as such; it is the Lord’s Table. However, the church alone grants access to the table and must guard it from the leaven of unrighteousness (1 Cor. 5:6-8). Therefore, if you have not repented and trusted in Christ or if you are harboring sin in your life or if there is any person from whom you are estranged, please do not participate in this meal. We invite you instead to use this time to reflect and ask God to speak to your heart and give you more light and understanding. Children who have not been admitted to the table by the church should also refrain from partaking of the Supper.
For those who prefer, the outer ring of the tray is grape juice.
Please hold the bread and cup until all have been served
so that we may partake together.

*Departing Hymn No. 208
O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 3-4)

*The Benediction

Postlude
*Denotes congregation standing, if able.

Cookies & Catechism, immediately following this service

This morning our deacons will collect a special offering designated to provide assistance to those in our congregation and wider community who have material and financial needs. It has long been the practice of the church to receive gifts for this purpose in connection with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, remembering Jesus who ‘though he was rich yet for your sake became poor so that through his poverty you might become rich’ (2 Cor. 8:9). You are encouraged to give generously. Please use the Mercy Box at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.