

THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

The Lord's Day, December 9, 2018

The Christian Year: The Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 AM Morning Service

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed,
and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69*

[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. 196**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Invocation**

Gracious Father, with Peter we cry out, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." In a world of created changeable things, Christ and his Word remain unshaken. O to forsake all creatures, to rest as a stone on him the foundation, to abide in him, be borne up by him! For all my mercies come through Christ, who has designed, purchased, promised, and effected them. When I sin against you, I cross your will, love, life, and have no comforter, no creature, to go to. But you have given me Jesus your Son, as Mediator between yourself and my soul, for only he can span the chasm breached by sin, and satisfy divine justice. In his name we come to you. Amen.

From "Christ the Word" in The Valley of Vision

***Confession of Faith** Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 31

Minister: Why is he called Christ, that is, Anointed?

People: **Because he has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body has redeemed us, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.**

***Gloria** Tune: Gloria (Refrain)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

The Old Testament Reading **Isaiah 35**

***Hymn of Approach** **No. 194**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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. 230**

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

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** **John 7:40-52**

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon **Rev. Seth Wallace**

"JESUS: PROPHET"

***Hymn of Response and Preparation** **SH No. 7**

Behold the Lamb (verses 1-3)

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** **SH No. 7**

Behold the Lamb (verse 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.