

The Lord's Day, November 29, 2020

The Christian Year: The First Sunday in Advent

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candle?

Response: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Leader: In the days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established. All the nations shall stream out of it.

Response: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Leader: He shall judge between the nations, and settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

Response: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(The readers pause while the candle lighter begins to light the candle, and then the Leader continues.)

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of expectation. May the light of Christ show us the way of salvation.

Response: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

***Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19**

Minister: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

People: who alone does wondrous things.

Minister: Blessed be his glorious name forever;

People: may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Unison: Amen and Amen!

***Hymn of Adoration: "Come, Christian, Join to Sing" (No. 302)**

1 Come, Christians, join to sing

Alleluia! Amen!

loud praise to Christ our King;

Alleluia! Amen!

let all, with heart and voice,

before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice.

Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high,

Alleluia! Amen!

let praises fill the sky;

Alleluia! Amen!

he is our Guide and Friend;

to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end.

Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!

life shall not end the strain;

Alleluia! Amen!

on heaven's blissful shore,

his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore,

"Alleluia! Amen!"

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Invocation**

Merciful God, stir up your power and with great might come among us. And because you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation, give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

***Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 35, 36**

Minister: What do you confess when you say: *He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?*

People: The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus he is also the true seed of David, and like his brothers in every respect, yet without sin.

Minister: What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

People: He is our Mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.

Gloria (Tune: Adeste Fideles, refrain)

We'll praise your name forever and give you all the glory,
For you alone are worthy--Christ, the Lord!

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:5-38

***Hymn of Response: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (No. 196)**

1. 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.

2. 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"

3. 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.

4. 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.

CCLI # 3036374

Prayers of the People

Almighty God, who is and who was and who is to come, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him, our Savior, who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. We long for the day of his return. You have promised that you are surely coming. And we cry, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus."

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Assurance

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going . . . I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:1-6)

***Hymn of Thanksgiving: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (No. 207)**

1 Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

3 Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

2 Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Worship of God Through Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology (Tune: 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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

***Reading of The Holy Scriptures: Luke 1:39-45**

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon: "Songs for the Savior: *Exultavit* – The Song of Elizabeth" (Rev. Seth Wallace)

***Hymn of Response: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (No. 218)**

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

***The Benediction**

Postlude

**Denotes congregation standing, if able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ **Support the Deacon's Fund with the Purchase of a Handmade Bag**

Each Sunday after worship service until 12/13 and at the Thanksgiving and Chili Dinners, handmade, quilted tote bags/grocery bags will be available for \$25 each. All proceeds will be donated to the Deacon's Fund. It's a perfect time to purchase Christmas gifts and what better present for someone who has everything than a quilted grocery bag?

➤ **Chili Dinner**

You are invited to join in on the fun and fellowship at our Annual Chili Dinner on **Sunday, December 13**, beginning at 5:00 p.m. A signup sheet is located in the foyer, or you may use the sign-up form that was emailed to you. Be sure to indicate the number of people in your party and the food item you intend to bring, such as toppings (as noted on the signup sheet), salads or desserts. Chili and beverages will be provided by members of the Fellowship Committee. We hope to see you on the 13th.

➤ **Poinsettias**

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the insert in the bulletin and return it with your payment. The poinsettias will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.

➤ **Lessons and Carols Service**

We hope you'll plan to join us for our annual Lessons and Carols Service on **December 20** at 6 pm.

➤ **Women's Bible Study**

All women of the church are invited to participate in our twelve-week Bible study, which began September 10 and will continue through December 3. You may join us as we study the book of Ephesians, in the sanctuary every Thursday morning at 10:00 am.

Books are \$10 each and may be picked up at the church. Leaders Audrey B, Bev, Carolyn and Winnie look forward to sharing the Word with you. Bring a friend!