

Christ Presbyterian Church

November 29, 2020

Welcome & Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

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.

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.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving heavenly Father, you are the Lord of history, and your final victory is not in doubt. You love us, and you work all things together for our good. Yet even though we have tasted your goodness, we would rather trust in ourselves. We place our hopes in our own talents and abilities, in our investments and good health, and in political leaders we agree with. Father, we confess we are worshipers of ourselves, and find our hearts full of anxiety and depression when we discover we cannot save ourselves in any way. Forgive us, and by your Holy Spirit teach us to be still and know that you are God, and we are not. We pray in Jesus' strong name. (silent prayer)

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

O come, thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here
And drive away the shades of night and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pastoral Prayer & 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.

Old Testament Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

Fullness of Grace

1. Fullness of grace in man's human frailty:

This is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside his power and glory,
Humbly he entered our world;
Chose the path of meanest worth,
Scandal of a virgin birth;
Born in a stable, cold and rejected –
Here lies the hope of the world.

2. Fullness of grace, the love of the Father,

Shown in the face of Jesus;
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,
Walking the Calvary road.
Christ, the holy Innocent, took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected,
Crushed for the sins of the world.

3. Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,

Promise of God in Jesus.
Through his obedience we are forgiven,
Opening the floodgates of heav'n.
All our hopes and dreams we bring
Gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life, and joy unspeakable,
God's gift in love to the world.

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 1:15-22

Sermon

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to man hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Benediction