

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRIST,
OUR PROMISE

ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

DECEMBER 7, 2014



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

*May our worship open our hearts to God's love, our eyes to God's beauty,
our minds to God's truth, and our will to God's service.*

This week we gather to worship with the symbols of Advent and Christmas displayed throughout the church with decorations that were hung during our Hanging of the Green service. Today, we begin our worship with a medieval carol that speaks of the symbolism of the holly and ivy.

Merciful God, who 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,
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 forever. Amen.

COME, LORD JESUS

ORGAN PRELUDE: Variations on "Good Christian Men Rejoice" Denis Bédard
Pastorale "Gesù Bambino" Pietro A. Yon
Samuel Metzger, organ

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Johnny, Amy, Quinn, and Elizabeth Allen (8:15)
Gideon, Carly, Wilson, and Denton Scoggin (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: "The Holly and the Ivy" arr. Ola Gjeilo

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

*Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly and the ivy, now are full well grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly wears the crown.

*Laudis Domini Vocal Ensemble
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP D. Todd Erickson

◆HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

✦CORPORATE PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give You thanks
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
When He humbled Himself to come among us as a man,
He fulfilled the plan You formed long ago
and opened for us the way to salvation.
Now we watch for the day,
assured that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in His glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GLORIA

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

COME, LIGHT OF GRACE

CHORAL MEDITATION: "A Tender Shoot" Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
The virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before You and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of Your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge.
We have failed to see how Your Advent has turned our darkness to light.
We believe that scripture has foretold Your arrival,
yet we have been unprepared to fully receive
this beautiful blossom that has come in Christ Jesus.
We have been blind to Your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In Your great goodness, put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF CHRIST'S LIGHT:

No. 221 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN
stanzas 1, 2 & 4

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS. David A. Bowen

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Coventry Carol" arr. Ola Gjeilo

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;
This poor Youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.

Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, and ever mourn and say;
For Thy parting, nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

**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 AND DEDICATION

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

COME, WORD INCARNATE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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 LESSON: II Samuel 7:1-17 Margaret S. Stephens (8:15)
(page 259 in the church Bible) Candace C. Willis (11:00)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

SERMON *Christ in the Historical Books* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Joy Has Dawned" Keith Getty



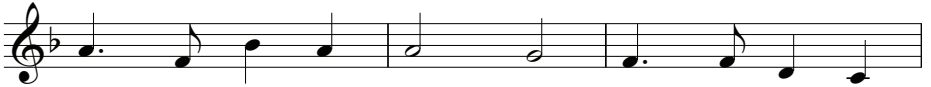
1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, pro - mised from cre -
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, ga - zing at the
4. Son of A - dam Son of Heav'n, gi - ven as a



a - tion: God's sal - va - tion now un - furled hope for
an - gels, as the migh - ty Prince of Life shel - ters
glo - ry; gifts of men from dis - tant lands pro - phe -
ran - som; re - con - ci - ling God and man Christ our



ev - ery na - tion. Not with fan - fares from a - bove,
in a sta - ble. Hands that set each star in place,
sy the sto - ry. Gold, a King is born to - day;
migh - ty Cham - pion! What a Sa - viour, what a Friend,



not with scenes of glo - ry, but a hum - ble
shaped the earth in dark - ness, cling now to a
in - cense God is with us; myrrh, His death will
what a glo - rious mys - t'ry: once a babe in



gift of love: Je - sus born of Ma - ry.
mo - ther's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
make a way and by His blood He'll win us.
Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Hallelujah" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel; arr. Metzger

♠Indicates congregation standing

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Getting Connected

To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Todd Erickson at (901) 531-8895 or todd.erickson@2pc.org.