

Third Sunday of Advent



Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 11, 2016

A WORD ON WORSHIP

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

During Advent, we sing about and study the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
II Corinthians 8:9 serves as a key text for our understanding:

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”*

J.I. Packer, in his spiritual classic, *Knowing God*, writes:

*This verse states not only the fact of the incarnation but also its meaning. The
taking of manhood by the Son is not only a marvel of nature, but a wonder of
grace. The Lord of everything becomes a servant so that we might receive God’s
grace. What is grace? It is undeserved favor from an unobligated giver.*

This grace not only saves us for all eternity, but revolutionizes our lives now.
E. Stanley Jones, a missionary to India, summarizes:

*“Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can
bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it, you are bound forever to the
Giver and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like. Grace makes
you gracious, the Giver makes you give.”*

As we worship today, may God’s grace and generosity lavished on us at
Jesus’ cradle, cross, and empty tomb transform us into His gracious and
generous people.

EXALT HIM! AN ANTICIPATED KING RULES

ORGAN PRELUDE: Variations on “Good Christian Men Rejoice” Denis Bédard
Samuel Metzger, organ

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Mike, Molly, Price, and Graham Gore (8:15)
Wade, Katie, Will, and Graham West (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord Almighty God who was and is and is to come.
Sing holy, holy Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon.

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Richard G. Cain

◆HYMN OF CHRIST’S KINGSHIP:

No. 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL
stanzas 1-3

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

**‘I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’”**

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

**He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

**My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

I will establish his offspring forever

and his throne as the days of the heavens.

♣CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYFRYDOL

**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. Amen.**

♣PRAYER OF ADORATION

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM (11:00)

*Elizabeth Rachel Barnes, born March 6, 2016, daughter of Megan and Matthew Barnes
Elizabeth Meriwether Hammons, born June 24, 2016, daughter of Josie and John Hammons
Tyler Murphy Payne, born July 21, 2016, son of Mandy and Justin Payne*

PARENTAL VOWS

Do you acknowledge your child’s need of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God’s covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look to the Lord
Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance
upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that
you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the sacred Scriptures, and
that you will strive, by all the means that God provides you, to bring him up in the
nurture and admonition of the Lord?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

Do you undertake the responsibility to assist these parents in the Christian nurture
of their child?

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT: “Jesus Loves You” JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so;
Little ones to Him belong, you are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so.**

ENJOY HIM! A HUMBLE SAVIOR RESCUES

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Thou Shalt Know Him" Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums,
Nor His manners, nor His airs, nor by anything He wears.
Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or by His gown,
But His coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know Him when He comes. Amen, amen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful Father,
You sent Your Son as the sunshine that rises
to banish the darkness of sin and death.
Forgive us for preferring the dark ways
of self-centeredness and self-sufficiency.
You sent Your Son to guide our feet into the path of peace.
Pardon us for proudly persisting
in warring ways that cause conflicts with others.
Humble us and embolden us
to follow Your lead in pursuing peace and reconciliation.
This we pray in Jesus' strong name, Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF CHRIST'S HUMILIATION: No. 230

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" . . . QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS. L. Brett Wynne

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Christ, the Apple Tree" Stanford Scriven

This anonymous text first appeared in a New England Hymnal in 1784 and has long been used as an Advent hymn. The text alludes to Song of Solomon 2:3 — "and His fruit was sweet to my taste." Charles Spurgeon says, "Jesus yields fruit, let us taste the sweetness of it. If Jesus is as an apple tree among the trees of the woods, do not keep away from Him, but sit under His shadow, and taste His fruit."

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary'd with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile;
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ST. AGNES

**Jesus, the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, and in Thy presence rest.**

**O Hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O Joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!**

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

EXTOL HIM! A SUPREME LORD RECONCILES

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

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.**

EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 1:15-20
 (page 983 in the pew Bible)

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 *Kurios: The Supremacy of Christ* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF CHRIST'S COMING:
 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" WESTMINSTER ABBEY

1. Lo! He comes with clouds des - cen - ding, once for
 2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him, robed in
 3. Ev - 'ry is - land, sea, and moun - tain, Heav'n and
 4. Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pec - ted, see in
 5. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on
 fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful maj - es - ty; those who set at
 earth, shall flee a - way; all who hate Him
 sol - emn pomp ap - pear; all His saints, by
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the
 saints at - ten - ding swell the tri - umph
 naught and sold Him pierced, and nailed Him
 must, con - found - ed, hear the trump pro -
 man re - ject - ed, now shall meet Him
 pow'r and glo - ry, claim the king - dom
 of His train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 claim the day: Come to judg - ment! Come to
 in the air: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.
 wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 judg - ment! Come to judg - ment, come a - way!
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on "He Is Born the Divine Christ Child" . . . Denis Bédard

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

Getting Connected

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

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This service, featuring our Chancel Choir and Orchestra, is an annual favorite filled with beautiful Advent hymns and a Christmas carols sing-along.

Nine Lessons and Carols
December 18, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

**Advent Evensong
with Jeff Taylor**
December 18, 6:00 p.m.

PJ Story Time
December 20, 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m., Family Service
featuring Christmas video
and children's message

5:30 and 8:00 p.m. Candlelight
Communion with The Chancel Choir

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
with The Westminster Singers