

First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order for the  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 3, 2017 · 8:15 a.m.

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

We live in a world rife with conflict, terror, and the works of darkness, which tend to breed fearful, faithless, and discouraged hearts. The biblical antidote is to come into the house of the Lord and worship Him. We know that Jesus Christ left the perfection of heaven to endure the indignity and humiliation of suffering and death so that He might rise again and give all those who trust Him immortal life. Knowing this fills our hearts with wonder and joy, so let us prepare our hearts to worship.

### Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, give us grace,  
that we may cast away the works of darkness  
and put upon us the armor of light now  
in the time of this mortal life  
in which Your son Jesus Christ  
came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day when He shall come again  
in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal  
through Him who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: "From Heaven Above I Come to You" . . . . . Johann Pachelbel  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "We Three Kings" . . . . . arr. Bruce Smith  
*Stephanie Hancock, clarinet; Dee Walker, flute*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE  
Gordon, Jennifer, Hil, Wilson, Hank, and Bo Thompson

CHORAL INTROIT: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

*The Westminster Singers  
Christy Young, director*

SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Gerry A. Peak

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

♠PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Isaiah 65 . . . . . Shelley Hill

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,  
**and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.**  
But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;  
**for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.**

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people;  
**no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
and the cry of distress.**

No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

**or an old man who does not fill out his days,**

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
and dust shall be the serpent's food.

**They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . REGENT SQUARE

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign. Amen.**

✦ INVOCATION *(Please lift hands)*

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN . . . . . Jennie Brooks

✦ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Please stand)* . . . . . T. Barton Kimbro

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ADVENT CANTICLE: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" . . . . . Mark Shepperd

Come, come Lord Jesus, come to set us free.

Come, come Lord Jesus, born to set your people free.

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.

*Lizzy Jorgensen and Elizabeth Ann Hickman, soloists*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . REGENT SQUARE

**Now Redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear!  
All His saints, by man rejected, now shall meet Him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom for Thine own:  
O come quickly, O come quickly; alleluia! come, Lord, come.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

APOCALYPTIC LESSON . . . . . Revelation 21:1-2, 5  
*(page 1041 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

*A New Reality*

George W. Robertson

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## ✦ INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All those who have publicly professed their faith and joined a Christian church as a communing member are warmly welcomed to receive communion today. Non-communing worshipers are encouraged to contemplate the love of Jesus Christ during this time. At Second Presbyterian, we encourage our children not to take communion until they have joined the church as communicant members.*

*We do, however, encourage non-communing children to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Those wishing to be served communion together as a group or family, please stand together in front of the two serving elders before taking the elements.*

*Gluten free communion bread is available upon request from the elder at the east side of the transverse aisle (opposite from the door leading to the Connector).*

## ✦ PROFESSION OF OUR 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 Ghost,  
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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ✦ GLORIA PATRI . . . . . GREATOR EX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen!**

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious, heavenly Father,  
all of us stand in fresh need of rescue and release  
from the debt of our sin by our Lord Jesus Christ.  
We confess as we begin this Advent that  
instead of peaceful, we are anxious;  
instead of joyful, we are irritable;  
instead of amazed, we are indifferent;  
and in the place of anticipation, we are fearful.  
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished.  
Pardon and free us from these parasitic sins that plague us,  
for we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION 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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*For those unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat. Throughout this time of communion, we invite you to join in singing the hymns printed in bold below.*

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: "An Advent Prelude" . . . . .Charles Callahan

"What Child Is This" . . . . .GREENSLEEVES  
*Reference page 213 in the Hymnal for music.*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?**

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

**Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" . . . QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE  
*Reference page 230 in the Hymnal for music.*

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.**

**Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenward by Thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship Thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship Thee.**

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" . . . . .ANTIOCH  
*Reference page 195 in the Hymnal for music.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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

✦HYMN OF ADVENT .....ANTIOCH

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

✦BENEDICTION (*Please lift hands*)

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE .....VENI EMMANUEL

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to Thee, O Israel.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on "Joy to the World".....Michael Dell

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

**A New Reality** | George Robertson

December 3, 2017

---

**I. Future** (*Revelation 21:1, 5*)

A. New Creation

B. True World

**II. Past** (*Revelation 21:2*)

A. Coming Down

B. Bride Dressed