

First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

November 27, 2016

A WORD ON WORSHIP

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

We live in a broken world darkened by sin. Not only is our world darkened, our hearts are darkened as well until the Lord shines in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:6).

During Advent we celebrate Jesus as the dayspring or sunrise. Luke 1:78 declares that “the sunrise shall visit us from on high.” Jesus came as a light shining in the darkness. The surprise, of course, is that the light of the world came in a form no one expected — a babe in a manger who conquered the darkness of sin and death through His own suffering, death, and resurrection.

As you prepare for worship, allow the Spirit to minister to your heart through the poetic words of the Scottish hymn writer, Horatius Bonar:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, ‘I am this dark world’s Light;
Look to Me — your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.’
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I’ll walk, till traveling days are done.

Prayer of Preparation

*Almighty God, You have poured upon us
the new light of Your incarnate Word – Jesus our Savior.
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
for we pray in the name of the One whom the darkness could not conquer,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WORSHIP AT THE FEET OF THE REDEEMER

ORGAN PRELUDE: “From Heaven High I Come to You” Johann Pachelbel
Samuel Metzger, organ

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE. Allie and Michael Wiggins (8:15)
Blake, Jaclyn, Lillian, and Samuel Bergeron (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: “Creator of the Stars of Night” 9th Century Plainchant

Creator of the stars of night, Your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You, hear us when we call.

At Your great name, O Jesus now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP. Dan G. Burns

◆ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Come, O Child of Promise” EBENEZER
Text by Gabriel Statom



1. Come, O Child of Pro - mise! Hear us, heal us,
2. Long the time of sor - row; mour-ning still we
3. Come, Thou Day-spring! Rod of Jes - se, Lamb of

weak and full of pain. Come, Re - deem - er!
 bear the weight of sin; long the time of
 God, our Li - on strong! Earth is yearn - ing

Else we ev - er help - less with - out Thee
 ex - pec - ta - tion, Sear and dry our hearts
 for Thy bles - sing, Bent be - neath the a -

re - main. Sa - vior! Son of Ma - ry, spot - less
 with - in. Wait! Hear now! A strong voice soft - ly
 ges long. First - born! See, Thy Church, still faith - ful

of - fering pure and free from stain; dwell a - mong us,
 speaks of joy and peace to come; through His pro - phets
 waits in song and si - lence now; till the crown of

now and e - er Through Thy cross turn us a - gain.
 God our Fa - ther Prom - ises to us His Son.
 earth and heav - en cir - cles Thy tri - um - phant brow.

♠PROPHETIC LESSON: Isaiah 59:20-21, 60:1-3. Rusty Shappley (8:15)
 Don Batchelor (11:00)

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
 to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord.

“And as for me,
 this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord:

“My Spirit that is upon you,
 and my words that I have put in your mouth,
 shall not depart out of your mouth,

or out of the mouth of your offspring,
 or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the Lord,
 “from this time forth and forevermore.”

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
 and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
 and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your rising.

♠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE EBENEZER

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son.
 Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One.
 We, who with Thy choirs supernal
 Saints and angels, praise Thy Word.
 Pray Thee, spread abroad Thy glory,
 Lift Thy scepter, crown, and sword. Amen.

♠PRAYER OF ADORATION

WALK IN THE LIGHT OF HIS GLORY

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious, heavenly Father, we stand guilty in Your sight
because light has come into the world,
but we have loved the darkness.
Forgive us for allowing pride, fear, doubt, anger and worry to plague us.
Pardon us for not shining Your light to others.
Our devotion to You has been fickle,
fluctuating with changing moods and circumstances.
We beseech You for Your gift of repentance
so that we might steadily live for Your glory and honor.
For we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF ASSURANCE..... HYFRYDOL

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."

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS..... Joshua D. Yates

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Christus Paradox" arr. Alfred Fedak

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory, beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia — You, who are our death and our life.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE EBENEZER

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior, who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity.
Alleluia! Alleluia to the Triune Majesty.

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) Will Nease

WONDER AT THE GRACE OF ADOPTION

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 Galatians 4:1-7
(page 974 in 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 *Kairos: The Purpose of Christ* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 324 “Christ Is Coming!” NEANDER

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

Tocatta on “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” Christopher Pardini

✦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.

Hanging of the Green

November 27 · 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for worship this evening in the Sanctuary. Our children’s and youth choirs will lead us in music, and the evening will conclude with the decorating of the church grounds, activities for children, and a live nativity.