

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2016

*“Because the beginning shall remind us of the end/
and the first coming of the second coming.”*

– T.S. Eliot “The Cultivation of Christmas Trees”

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fantasia and Prelude on Sleepers Wake

Johann Ludwig Krebs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

**We are here, standing in God's presence,
alert and ready to receive God's word.**

The night is passing. The day of salvation is near.

We wait and watch. Come, Lord Jesus!

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*HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1-3, 6-7 only)
[vs 2 high voices; vs. 6 low voices]

HS No. 1

CONFESSION OF SIN (congregation seated)

Merciful God,

Always with us, always coming;

We confess that we do not know

how to prepare for your Advent.

We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;

We have ignored the promise of your kingdom;

We get distracted by all the busyness of the season.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,

the intelligent courage of the wise ones,

and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph

that we too may journey to Bethlehem

and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts,

we ask that you make us ready for his coming.

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE

No. 1

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*People of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season
is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.*

Thanks be to God! Amen.

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*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 23

**Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Advent candle-lighting liturgy
(All who are young or young at heart are invited to come forward.)

Hope has come!

A light in the darkness!

Hope shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

Hope is the gift of Advent.

SUNG RESPONSE

When God Is a Child, vs. 1

HS No. 3

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

(NT pg. 152)

ANTHEM

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Robert Wetzler

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

(OT pg. 594)

SERMON

The Turn-Around Spot

Lynne Clements

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our hope in Christ. Who came, who comes and who is to come.

When violence reigns and war seems never-ending, Christ is our hope.

When despair lies in wait and life loses meaning, Christ is our hope.

**When people claim to know what God alone knows and say the end is near,
Christ is our hope.**

In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow, in life and in death, Christ is our hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

See Insert

[vs. 1: Choir, vs. 2-4 All]

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, in the Time Appointed

Healey Willan

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

No. 591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do
and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again.**

**In faith and hope, we offer our gifts of money and self,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
as we watch for Christ's coming. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Song of Zechariah

No. 602

[During the hymn, the congregation is invited to respond by bringing forward
our Presbytery Hunger Offering for hunger relief work.]

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley