

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service for the Lord's Day

December 13, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

GATHERING

The peace candle represents our prayers for peace in a broken world. The congregation is asked to offer prayers of intercession for one another and for those who lead in these times of remote worship.

PRELUDE

"Three Advent Chorale-Preludes" Johann Sebastian Bach
Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599
The Son of God Is Come, BWV 600
Lord Christ, the Only Son of God, BWV 601

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

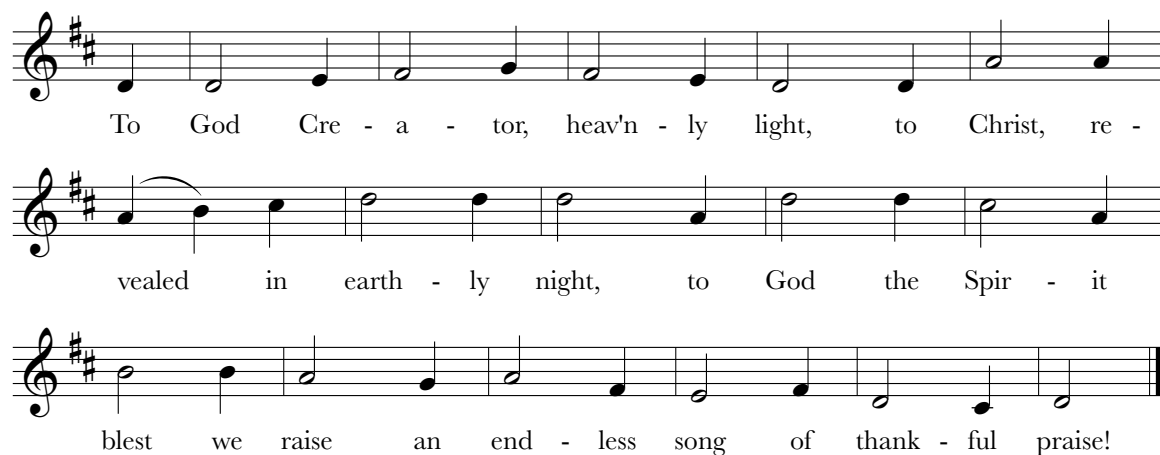
Generous and gracious God,
we confess the smallness of our love and the narrowness of our concern.
These days we easily become preoccupied with numbers.
Opportunities to say thanks, to offer encouragement,
to remember each other in friendship slip by.
Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out.
Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season.
Turn our hearts back to you,
and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

- Prayer for today from The Presbyterian Church in Canada

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



To God Cre - a - tor, heav'n - ly light, to Christ, re -
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Spir - it
blest we raise an end - less song of thank - ful praise!

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

17th-century Italian carol; Charles Wood, arr.

Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! For so, when he did meet thee, spake mighty Gabriel, and thus we greet thee. Come weal, come woe, our hymn shall never vary. Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! Ave! Ave Maria! To gladden priest and people, the angelus shall ring from every steeple, to sound his virgin birth. Alleluia! *Ave! Ave Maria!* Archangels chant, 'Hosanna!' And, 'Holy! Holy! Holy!' Before the Infant born of thee, thou lowly, aye-maiden child of Joachim and Anna. Archangels chant Hosanna! -G.R. Woodward

Samantha Noonan, Hannah Nacheman, Arri Lawton Simon, and Andrew Martens

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

"Joy Unexpected"

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF THE
COUNTY DOWN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Reginald Jacques, arr.

There stood in heav'n a linden tree; but, tho' 'twas honey laden, all Angels cried, "No bloom shall be like that of one fair Maiden." Sped Gabriel on winged feet, and pass'd through bolted portals in Nazareth, a Maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals. "Hail Mary!" quoth that Angel mild, "Of woman-kind the fairest: the Virgin ay shalt thou be styled, a babe although thou bearest." "So be it!" God's hand-maiden cried, "According to thy telling." Whereon the Angel smartly hied up home-ward to his dwelling. This tidings fill'd his mates with glee: "Twas pass'd from one to other, that 'twas Mary, and none but she, and God would call her Mother."

–G.R. Woodward, trans.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

HYMN 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
stanzas 1, 6 and 7

VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Toccatà on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'"

Andrew Carter

The congregation is invited to continue worshiping through the postlude, which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.

MUSIC NOTES The *Orgelbüchlein*, or Little Organbook, is a collection of chorale (hymn) preludes composed by Bach between 1708 and 1717. The surviving manuscript includes a title page outlining the intent of the book – "in which a beginning organist receives given instruction as to performing a chorale in a multitude of ways," – and pages prepared for 164 chorale-preludes, organized by the liturgical year, the catechism, and general themes. The 46 preludes that Bach completed remain not only foundational works for organists, but powerful, musical-theological statements of the composer. *Savior of the Nations, Come* represents the mystery of the Incarnation, the chorale melody present throughout, yet disguised. *The Son of God Is Come* is light and happy, the melody in canon between the hands and feet. *Lord Christ, the Only Son of God*, the first of the *Orgelbüchlein* preludes composed, joyfully anticipates Christ's coming. (notes adapted from "Bach: The Orgelbüchlein" by Russell Stinson, © 1999 by Oxford University Press.) • "Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary!" is based on an Italian melody published in 1689. The original text is by G.R. Woodward, an Anglican priest known for his careful translations of ancient texts to English. "The Linden Tree Carol," translated by Woodward, is a 15th century German folk song that compares Mary to the bloom of the linden tree. • "Toccatà on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'" was composed at the invitation of Oxford University Press. Based on the composer's favorite Advent melody, the toccatà evokes the style of brilliant French organ toccatàs from the late-19th and 20th centuries. –Michael Shake

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