

In-Person Bulletin for Worship

December 5, 2021

9:00 Service

Prelude Hark the Herald Angels Sing
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Go Tell it on the Mountain

arranged by David Lasky
arranged by David Miller
arranged by David Lasky, Kristina Langlois
arranged by David Miller

Announcements

Lew Smith

Lit candle is brought in reminding us of Christ in our Midst.

Lighting the Candles of Hope and Peace

Willey Family

We celebrate the second Sunday of Advent, by lighting the candles of Hope and Peace. We celebrate God's promise of peace in the world. Despite the wars and distress, the poverty and oppression, God has spoken that there will be peace.

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence,

"Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole,

for peace is stronger than turmoil,

and love is louder than hate.

(Light 2 candles)

As we light our second Advent candle,

we pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Let us Pray: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Lew Smith

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Make God's paths straight.

Every valley will be filled,

and every mountain will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight.

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All will see the salvation of God.

See the light from on high.

The dawn is breaking.

The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

Musical Meditation: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

arranged by Charles Ore

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.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC (HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D): Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Prayer of Adoration

Let us pray: Merciful God, how thankful we are that you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way of our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Call to Confession

Hear these words from Scripture: God is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Therefore, let us confess before God and one another.

Unison Prayer of Confession

(Printed by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth S. Duck & Maren C. Tirabassi)

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.

Take a few moments for your own silent confession

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

The Lord is merciful and forgiving,
a great and compassionate savior.
God rescues us from darkness
and frees us from fear.
Like a refiner's fire, the Lord makes us shine
with the brilliance of the purest gold and silver.
The one who began this work in us
seeks to bring it to completion.
May the day of Christ find us flawless
and without blame.

Glory to God Hymnal #583 "Gloria, Gloria"

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Copyright © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (France). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Chicago, Illinois, exclusive agent. All rights reserved. First Presbyterian Church, FDL OneLicense #A-730666

Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 3:3-11

³For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Luke 3:1-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Message: "Catching Flies with Vinegar"

Rev. Richard Moore

***Apostles' Creed (Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and
before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place...

Therefore, we gladly join our voices of the Church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Remembrance and Words of Institution

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,

Christ has risen,

Christ will come again.

Prayers of Intercession and Petition

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

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 of the Bread and Cup

The Response

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and forget not all God's benefits.**

Benediction

Sending Music: *(Assembly dismisses during this instrumental piece)*

Glory to God Hymnal #93, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, London, 1789