

# In-Person Bulletin for Worship

## November 28, 2021

### 9:00 Service

**Prelude** Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
Away in a Manger  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
Silent Night

#### **Announcements**

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

#### **Lighting the Candle of Hope**

*Dick and Sally Sleder and Charlotte Carr*

We light this first Advent candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

This is the candle of hope.

We abide in the hope of God's love and blessings.

The world says, "All is lost."

**God says, "All is loved."**

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

**The light says, "The fire is catching."**

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

**Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."**

*(candle is lit)*

As we light our first Advent candle,

**we pray for holy hope of God.**

Come now, O Child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

*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**

*Jolene Schry*

People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

**As we gather to pray and sing and listen,**

**a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.**

The days are surely coming, says Our God,  
when justice and righteousness will prevail.

**May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds,**

**freeing us to respond joyfully  
to God's call in the days to come.**

**Musical Meditation:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*Veni Emmanuel*)

*arranged by Paul Manz*

O come Desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Glory to God Hymnal #88 CCLI Song # 31982

**Prayer of Adoration**

*Let us pray:* Holy Source of life and hope,  
as we come together this day,  
open our ears to hear,  
open our eyes to see,  
and open our hearts to love,  
that we may come to know your ways  
and follow your paths.  
Help us grow in love for one another,  
and for all creation,  
as we prepare for the coming of the one  
who calls us to turn from our false gods  
to you, Holy One,  
the true source of our salvation. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.  
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.  
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.  
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Show us the signs of your coming,  
that we may stand before you, the Son of Man,  
in whose name we pray. AMEN.**

*Take a few moments for your own silent confession*

**Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness**

As sure as the fig tree blossoms,  
so sure is the salvation of God,  
poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Believe the good news.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**The Presbyterian Hymnal #579 “Gloria Patri”**

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.

*Public Domain*

*Glory Be to the Father*

*TEXT: Trad. liturgical text. Composer: Henry W. Greatorex (1851)*

**Scripture Readings:**

**Jeremiah 33:14–16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

**1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Luke 21:25-36 (Common English Bible)**

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. <sup>26</sup> The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

*A lesson from the fig tree*

<sup>29</sup> Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. <sup>32</sup> I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. <sup>34</sup> “Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

**Message: "The Coming of Something Wonderful"**  
**Pastoral Prayer**

*Rev. Mary Balson*

**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.

**Benediction**

**Sending Music:** *(assembly dismisses during this instrumental piece)*  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*arr. by Healey Willan*