



Community Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent
3 December 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude (202) *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

*Call to Worship

(One) This is the season of holy waiting.

(All) We wait for the One who will open the heavens and come down to save us.

(One) We watch for the day when God's name will be made known among the nations.

(All) We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.

(One) Come let us walk in the light of God!

Opening Prayer

First Candle of Advent: Hope

(One) Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

(All) We light the candle of hope in anticipation of Christ's return. Trusting in God, we wait.

Light of the Hope Candle

(One) God of hope, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, so that we may be aware to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

(All) God of hope, into our darkness come.

*Hymn (154)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

(One) Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

(All) Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

(One) O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

(All) You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

(One) You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

(All) Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

(One) But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

(All) Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

(One) Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

***Hymn (161)**

People Look East

(1) People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

(2) Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

(3) Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

(4) Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Prayer of Confession

(All) Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to a season. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Assure us of our pardon that we may find rest in you. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

***Hymn (190)**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(1) Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.

It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

(2) Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:

With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

(3) This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

RESPONSE

Prayer of Invitation

Eat This Bread

Eat this bread, Drink this cup.
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup.
Trust in him and you will not thirst.

Words of Institution

Communion

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

Still, Still, Still

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespases)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Ding Dong Merrily on High

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Games Up Here

Join us for "**Games up here**" on **Monday, December 4th** at the Presbyterian Annex at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us this **Wednesday, December 6th at 5:00pm** online and in Darley Hall as we explore the fourth chapter of *On the Brink of Everything*.

Pastor: Rev. Jason Brian Santos, Ph.D. (206) 962-9886
Organist/Pianist: Celeste Scott

Community Presbyterian Church

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SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 64:1-9

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

64:2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

64:3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

64:4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

64:5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

64:7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

64:9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

1:5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--

1:6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--

1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

13:24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

13:26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

13:27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

13:28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

13:29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

13:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

13:32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

13:33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

13:34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

13:35 Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

13:36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

13:37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."