

December 1, 2024

10:30 am

The First Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Opening Hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *Robert Robinson, John Wyeth*

Come Thou fount of every blessing tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither, by Thy help, I've come
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee
prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The candle of Hope is lit by the Reader

Psalmist: All pray – Almighty God, we place our trust and hope in You. We pray that You will send Your Son, Jesus Christ, into our lives to guide and protect us through difficult times. Amen.

Celebrant Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen***

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it:

People ***Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.***

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord:

People ***Who made heaven and earth.***

Celebrant I was glad when they said to me

People ***Let us go to the house of the Lord.***

Celebrant Praise the Lord.

People ***The name of the Lord be praised.***

All Almighty God, You bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by Your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify Your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first and great commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy and write these laws in our hearts, we pray.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant Be glorified at home.

People ***Be glorified in church.***

Celebrant Be glorified in Texas.

People ***Be glorified in the United States.***

Celebrant Be glorified on earth.

People ***Be glorified in heaven.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant *Alleluia!*

People ***Amen.***

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson is from the book of the prophet Zechariah, chapter 14, beginning to read at verse 1

14 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. ⁸On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. ⁹And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God***

Psalm 50:1-14

Let us read this Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 The LORD, even the most mighty God, has spoken *
and called the world, from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in her beauty, *
has God shone forth in glory.
- 3 Our God shall come and shall not keep silence; *
there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.
- 4 He shall call to the heavens above, *
and to the earth beneath, that he may judge his people:
- 5 “Gather my faithful together unto me, *
those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
- 6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness, *
for God himself is Judge.

- 7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; *
I myself will testify against you, O Israel, for I am God, even your God.
- 8 I will not rebuke you because of your sacrifices, or for your burnt offerings, *
because they are always before me.
- 9 I will take no bull calf out of your house, *
nor he-goat out of your folds.
- 10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, *
and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the air, *
and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.
- 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, *
for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.
- 13 Do you think that I will eat the flesh of bulls *
and drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer unto God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, *
and pay your vows unto the Most High,

Psalmist This is the Word of the Lord.

People *Alleluia! Praise be to God.*

The second lesson is from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, beginning to read at verse 6.

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Alleluia! Praise be to God.

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. (2x)

Celebrant We stand to hear the good news of our salvation, as it is written in the Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 21 beginning to read at verse 25.

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

Celebrant This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Alleluia! Praise be to Christ our Savior.

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. O let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Thebeau

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We stand together with Christians throughout the centuries, and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant Come, long-expected Jesus. Receive our prayer as part of our service to the Lord who enlists us in His own work for Love. Come, long-expected Jesus.

Psalmist Heavenly Father, we come with thanksgiving for the lives You have given us, redeemed, and sustained through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Spirit to guide us as we pray in this Advent season.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Father, we pray for Your holy Church; that we all may be one in Christ. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You; that Your Name may be glorified by everyone. We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons; especially Steve, our Archbishop; Clark, our Bishop; Chuck, our priest, that they may be faithful ministers of Your word and sacraments. Give them strength to do Your will in all that they undertake and that they may be blessed in all their works.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Strengthen your Church for her witness and work in the world. Today we lift up All Saints Anglican Church in Conroe, Texas. We ask your anointing upon Archbishop Lamido, Kaduna, Nigeria; and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans

around the world. We especially pray that you would empower our sister parish, Christ Church Jerusalem, as an instrument for your peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and the Middle East.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come into our hearts, repair the brokenness of sin, heal the wounds of mind and spirit, comfort the sick and grieving, warm the cold-hearted, fill the lonely and empty.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come into our homes, make them places of grace, places of forgiveness, places of safety, places of joy, and places of peace.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come to all those who protect us; our Armed Forces and first responders and fill them with a sense of Your ever abiding presence.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come to those at the center of our government and fill them with wisdom, justice and truth as they lead our great nation.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist We pray for the little children and babies: born and unborn, that their tender lives may be protected and their rights guarded.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist We praise You and thank You for Your bountiful blessings You so freely give. We beseech You to move Your people to support and complete Your glorious City on the Hill. May we be a beacon that shines from the top of this hill not only throughout New Braunfels but Texas and the world.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for an abundance of rain to replenish our land.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Celebrant Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us a faith responsive to the Father's Gift. Excite in us the hope of Your coming. Excite in us Your love for the world. In the name of our Coming King, Jesus. ***Amen.***

Prayers of Penitence

Celebrant Hear the words of challenge and comfort our Savior Christ says to all who follow him. If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. (*Luke 9:23-24*)

Come to me all of you who are tired of carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11:28*)

So, all of you who repent of your sins, who love your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the way of Jesus, come with faith and take this holy sacrament to strengthen you. Let us reverently confess our sins to Almighty God.

***All* Almighty God, creator of all, You marvelously made us in Your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged Your likeness by rejecting Your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the sacrifice of Your Son; remake us and lead us by Your Spirit, the Comforter. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, whose steadfast love is as great as the heavens are high above the earth, remove your sins from you as far as the east is from the west, strengthen your life in His kingdom and keep you upright to the last day; through Jesus Christ our merciful High Priest. Amen.

***All* Thank you Father, for forgiveness; we come to Your table as Your children, not presuming but assured, not trusting ourselves but Your Word; we hunger and thirst for**

righteousness, and ask for our hearts to be satisfied with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

The Peace

Offertory Hymn “The Light Came Down”

Josh Garrels

There is a light, bright star shining - In the dark night, old tales come true
All of our fears, hopes and prayers - He has heard and answered us

Chorus: The light came down - Cast the darkness away
He appeared a helpless child - The light of God came down

There is a light a new day dawning - Old things pass, all things made new
Prophets have spoken all He would accomplish
When the light of God would dwell with men

Chorus 2: The light came down - Cast the darkness away
He appeared a helpless child - The light of God came to save us
To the world that He made us - O' Lord and savior - Alleluia

Doxology

All sing Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant Is the Father with us?

People **He is.**

Celebrant Is Christ among us?

People **He is.**

Celebrant Is the Spirit here?

People **He is.**

Celebrant This is our God.

People **Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Celebrant We are His people.

People **We are redeemed.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant It is right and our delight to give You thanks and praise, great Father, living God, supreme over the world. Creator, Provider, Savior and Giver. For Abraham, the wandering nomad, You made an everlasting covenant and called Your family; for a burdened people You raised up Moses as a prophet and leader; for a confused nation You chose David to be king; for a rebellious crowd, You sent Your prophets.

In these last days You have sent us Your Son, Your perfect image, bringing Your kingdom, revealing Your will, dying, rising, reigning, remaking Your people for Yourself. Through Him You have poured out Your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with angels, archangels, faithful ancestors and all in heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, forever praising You and singing,

“Sanctus”

“Sanctus” Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. (2x)

Men sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ladies sing: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (2x)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

People remain standing

Celebrant Almighty God, owner of all things, we thank You for giving up Your Son to die on the cross for us who owe You everything. Pour Your refreshing Spirit on us as we remember Him in the way He commanded, through these gifts of Your creation.

On the same night that He was betrayed He took bread and gave You thanks; He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat, this is My body which is given for You; Do this in remembrance of Me.

People ***Amen. His body was broken for us.***

Celebrant In the same way, after supper He took the cup and gave You thanks; He gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We are brothers and sisters through His blood.

People ***We have died together, we will rise together, we will live together.***

Celebrant Therefore, heavenly Father, hear us as we celebrate this covenant with joy, and await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He died in our place, making a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. You accepted His offering by raising Him from death, and granting Him great honor at Your right hand on high.

People ***Amen. Jesus is Lord.***

Celebrant This is the feast of victory!

People ***The Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!***

The Communion

Celebrant As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People ***Though we are many we are one body, for we all share one bread.***

Celebrant The cup of blessing which we bless,

People ***is a sharing in the blood of Christ.***

Celebrant Draw near with faith and receive.

People ***Christ is the host and we are His guests.***

Celebrant Christ is alive for ever.

People ***We are because He is.***

The celebrant then holds the bread and the wine and declares to the people:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, to preserve your body and soul in eternal life. Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts, by faith, and with thanksgiving.

“O Come to The Altar”

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, Mack Brock

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar, The Father’s arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there’s no reason to wait, Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling (*Chorus x2*)

All Christians who have turned in faith to Jesus Christ and have been baptized are invited to receive Communion; people come forward for communion while the following songs are sung.

Communion Songs “Come Thou long expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley, Rowland H. Pritchard

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

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

“Come To Save Us”

Leslie Jordan, David Leonard

You have come to save us
You have come to save us
You have come to save us Lord

You have made a way here

You have made the way clear
You have come to save us Lord

Chorus: Jesus, You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

You are light and fire
You are our desire
You have come to save us Lord

You're the hope among us
You're the peace that binds us
You have come to save us Lord
You have come to save us Lord

Bridge: King of all kings and Lord of all lords
Light of the world, You shine

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Again I Say Rejoice)”

John M. Neale, Thomas Helmore, Matt Maher

O come O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear

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

O come Thou Wisdom from on high, Who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go

Chorus 2: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel

Bridge: Rejoice, again I say rejoice
For unto us is born the Savior of the world
Take heart oh weary soul take heart
For help is on its way, and holy is His Name

(Bridge, Chorus, Bridge)

Ending: Holy is His Name, holy is His Name

Post-Communion Prayer

All Almighty God, eternal Father, we have sat at Your feet, learned from Your word, and eaten from Your table. We give You thanks and praise for accepting us into Your family. Send us out with Your blessing, to live and to witness for You in the power of Your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, the First Born from the dead. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

John Brownlie

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes

Not as of old a little child to bear and fight and die
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings
Hail Christ the Lord Thy people pray come quickly King of kings.

Celebrant Words of dismissal.

All Praise be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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