

December 8th, 2019

*This is the day that the LORD has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

Please greet those around you before the announcements begin.

Moments of Meditation

While the music is being played, quietly prepare your heart for worship.

“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.”

Trinity Hymnal #196

Prelude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Hamlin

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Greeting (Sharing God’s Welcome)

Interlude

The Divine Infant is Born

arr. Nevins

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***Call to Worship**

Psalm 1:1-3

***Hymn of Praise**

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

No. 195

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

***Prayer of Invocation**

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together!

Light the 1st & 2nd Advent Candles

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the LORD.

Leader: Let your hearts rejoice in God, for He has worked salvation in our midst.

People: Our hearts exult in the LORD, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: Let your hearts rejoice in God, for He has broken the curse of sin.

People: The Serpent has bruised the heel of Christ Jesus.

Leader: But Jesus has bruised the head of the Serpent.

People: But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities.

Leader: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

Unison: And with His wounds we are healed.

My soul magnifies the Lord;
My soul blesses my God and Creator.
My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord.
For the Lord has regarded my lowly estate.
A handmaiden worthy but to kneel at His feet.
And yet He has blessed me far above every woman;
For He that is mighty has done great and glorious things!
Holy, holy, holy, holy is His name.
Holy, holy, holy, holy is His name.
My soul magnifies the Lord.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 2:1-11
Pew Bible Page 420

Prayer of Confession

O Lord God, lead us in Your righteousness. Because Your enemies surround us, make Your way clear before us, that we might not be led astray. Let us take refuge in You in time of trouble and distress. May we rejoice in the refuge and comfort that we find in You. Spread Your protection over us so that those who love You may exult in You. For You indeed bless Your people, O God. You cover us with Your favor as with a shield. For all Your goodness to us, we give You thanks in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Psalm 1:5-6

⁵ Therefor the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Westminster Shorter Catechism 1 & 2

Q. 1 What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2 What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Prayer of Intercession

Tithes and Offering

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Berry

*Hymn of Preparation

When Morning Gilds the Skies

No. 167

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

When sleep her balm denies, my silent spirit sighs:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

When evil thoughts molest, with this I shield my breast:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace her I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

In heav'n's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

The pow'rs of darkness fear, when this sweet chant they hear:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resounds:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let air and sea and sky, from depth to height, reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this th'eternal song, through all the ages on:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Outline

1. God's Eyes

2. God's Arm

3. God's Word

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Have you had 'spiritual mentors' in your life? Who were they? What made them stand out? What did they do? What did they not do?
2. What, if anything, motivates you to sing? How is our outward song a reflection of what's going on inside of us?
3. What are some of the biggest challenges facing the Church today? What can we do about them? How does knowing that "God shows strength with his arm" affect how we face these challenges?
4. Who are the young people in your church? Do you know them by name? How can you become a 'spiritual aunt or uncle' to them?

***Hymn of Response**

Away in a Manger

No. 204

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

***Benediction**

***Gloria Patri**

No. 735

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, amen.

***Postlude**

God Rest You Merry

arr. Held

*** Congregation:** Please stand as able.

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Soloist

Denise O'Neal

Piano & Organ

Sandy DeGroot

Intercessory Prayer

Bruce Stoltzfus, Elder

Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 12/08	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	12:30 PM	Schoon Care Group
	6:00 PM	Prayer Meeting
TUES 12/10	1:00 PM	PM Care Group
WED 12/11	9:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
SAT 12/14	6:00 PM	Stoltzfus Care Group
SUN 12/15	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	5:00 PM	Youth Bible Study

Important Upcoming Events

SAT 12/21	12:00 PM	Christmas Cookie Exchange
TUES 12/24	6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Serving the Lord

	12/08	12/15	12/22
AM Nursery	B. Schoon, Krystal T.	F. Armstrong, Cordie A.	V. Lash, Aaron L.
Greeters	C.L. Yonker	J. Rogers	Stechly
Treats	Schoon	J. Rogers	O'Neal
Serve/Cleanup	Schoon	Lindborg	O'Neal
Audio	B. Armstrong	B. Schoon	B. Armstrong
Elder of the Week	Stoltzfus	Lindborg	Schoon

Announcements

☞ **Prayer Meeting Tonight:** Prayer meeting will be held tonight at 6 pm. Come spend an hour in prayer to our Lord.

☞ **Order a Poinsettia in Memory of Your Loved One:** This is the last Sunday to order a poinsettia. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for \$5, we will purchase these and put them in the sanctuary next Sunday. The name of the loved one whose memory you are honoring will be posted in the bulletin so we can honor these individuals as a congregation.

☞ **Christmas Eve Service:** A special candlelight service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 pm. The Valparaiso Mennonite Church (we hosted a VBS with them this past summer) will be joining us for this service. Invite your friends to come and prepare for Christ's birth through this service of Lessons and Carols.

☞ **No Sunday School Classes:** There will be no Sunday School classes on December 22 and December 29. Classes will resume on January 5.

☞ **Christmas Cookie Exchange:** Jenni Gretzinger would like to invite the woman of Good Shepherd, and any family or friends that would like to come, to join in a new tradition of fellowship. On December 21 at 12:00 o'clock, we will have a cookie exchange. Please bring 4 dozen cookies (bought or homemade) and return home with a new assortment of cookies. A soup lunch will be provided for you. Save the date for a time of meditation on the advent season and singing some carols. What a lovely way to get to know each other a little more and celebrate the birth of our King! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Hope to see you there! *Please don't let the need for 4 dozen cookies to keep you away.... bring any or none...