



December 11, 2022



Experiencing Christ's Love
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Call to Worship

P The coming of Christ brings the love of God's presence into our midst!

C **We sing praises to God for the salvation Christ brings to us!**

P Because of Christ, the weak are strengthened, the fearful are encouraged, and the sinful are redeemed!

C **God comes to us in Christ to walk with us, so we come to praise and worship our Lord and Savior.**

P We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen!**

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650-80
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P In the season of Advent, we are called to be people of hope – hopeful for the coming Messiah, the promised One of God. This is a season of waiting, but not passively. We wait and prepare with eager expectations. As we prepare for Christ

to come, let us be truthful with God and acknowledge our own sin. We pause to reflect on our need for God's mercy again today.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Prayer of Confession

P Let us pray,

C **Father God, we confess that we have tried to hide from You, if not physically, certainly spiritually. We have lived for ourselves in many ways. We have skirted opportunities to bear the burdens of others and have turned away from the needs we've seen. We have not loved You fully, nor our neighbors as You have commanded. In Your mercy, forgive our sin, and free us from this attitude of selfishness and indifference. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus. Amen**

Assurance of Faith

P Friends, God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to deliver His mercy and grace to us. Out of His amazing love, we are fully forgiven and set free to live our lives with joy and thanksgiving. We are indeed forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Song of Praise Video: "In Christ Alone" by Mercy Me

Prayer of the Day

Please be seated

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Matthew 1:18-25

A The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the first chapter

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

331 The Advent of Our King

sts. 1-2, 4, 6



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON:
WHEN GOD CHANGES OUR PLANS
(MATTHEW 1:18-25)

Please Stand

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

sts. 1, 3, 6



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea - sure store;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my-self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Congregation

A Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Please remain standing

Words of the Institution

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please Be Seated

Video During Communion: 'Somewhere in Your Silent Night' by Casting Crowns

Continuous Distribution by Pastor

(Family units come forward to receive the elements and take them to their seats. Please wait to eat and drink until instructed.)

All Receive the Sacrament together

(Pastor will indicate when to take the wafer and then the cup.)

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Benediction

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this
2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious
bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar
fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struc-tion,
Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,
Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,
Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,
bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no
strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais-es I will ev-er give to
more;
shield;
Thee;
Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev-er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91
Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated and wait for the ushers to dismiss you

Acknowledgments

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