

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music Improvisation on *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

Maxwell Family

One: The scriptures teach us that Christ is the true light coming into the world. Today we celebrate that coming by lighting candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation. In that hope, given by God, we are willing to wait.

All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

Franz Liszt

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Ringing of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Hymn #102

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Invocation

*Prayer of Confession

All: God of the in-between times, in this Advent season you remind us again of your promises. You call us to wait for you. Forgive our impatience and our desire to take control of life while we wait for you. Forgive wasted moments and time squandered. Give us the courage to wake up to the hope that we have in you, O God. Come to us, light our lives with hope, finish your work of salvation in us and teach us to be faithful in our waiting time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

One: Through the generosity of God, through the grace of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and was resurrected, through the presence of God in the Holy Spirit, your confession is heard, you are received, you are made whole again. This is our Good News!

All: Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri #575

Glory Be to the Father

*Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Alice Parker and

Covenant Choir

Robert Shaw

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

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

O, Thou That Tellest Good Tidings

George Frideric Handel

Lucy Evans, Mezzosoprano to Zion, from *Messiah*

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

***Doxology #572** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #183** Christ is Coming!

Scripture Lesson

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:1-2

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan — the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

New Testament

John 1:1-5; 8:12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

One: This is God's Word for God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Our Light Shines

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

***Hymn #329**

Walk in the Light

***Benediction**

Postlude

People Look East

French Traditional

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers on the communion table are given with thanksgiving to the glory of God by the Maxwell Family in honor of their parents/grandparents Allen & Darlene Dusek and Harold & Laura Huston.

102 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The desire of all nations shall come . . . Haggai 2:7

HYFRYDOL 8787D.

Charles Wesley, 1744

Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830
Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king.

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. A - men.

Music from "The English Hymnal;" used by permission of Oxford University Press.

JESUS CHRIST: HIS ADVENT

Christ Is Coming! Let Creation 183

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of . . . Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

John R. Macduff, 1853

UNSER HERRSCHER 878787

Joachim Neander, 1680

1. Christ is com-ing! let cre - a - tion From her groans and tra - vail cease;
2. Earth can now but tell the sto - ry Of Thy bit - ter cross and pain;
3. Long Thine ex - iles have been pin - ing, Far from rest, and home, and Thee:
4. With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, Let no harp re - main un - strung

Let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion Hope re - store and faith in - crease:
She shall yet be - hold Thy glo - ry, When Thou com - est back to reign:
But in heav'n - ly ves - tures shin - ing, They their lov - ing Lord shall see:
Let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus On - ward roll from tongue to tongue:

Christ is com-ing! Christ is com-ing! Come, Thou bless-ed Prince of Peace.
Christ is com-ing! Christ is com-ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
Christ is com-ing! Christ is com-ing! Haste the joy - ous ju - bi - lee.
Christ is com-ing! Christ is com-ing! Come, Lord Je - sus, quick-ly come! A-men.

HIS COMING IN GLORY

Walk in the Light! 329

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light . . . I John 1:7

MANOAH C.M.

Bernard Barton, 1826

Henry W. Greator's Collection, 1851

1. Walk in the light! and you shall know That fel - low - ship of love
2. Walk in the light! and you shall find Your heart made tru - ly His,
3. Walk in the light! and you shall see Your dark - ness pass a - way,
4. Walk in the light! and you shall share Your path, though thorn - y, bright;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

His Spir - it on - ly can be - stow Who reigns in light a - bove.
Who dwells in cloud - less light en - shrined, In whom no dark - ness is.
Be - cause the light has come to be, In which is per - fect day.
For God in grace walks with you there, And God Him - self is light. A - men.

The second system of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

This Week at CFPC

Planning Ahead at CFPC

Sunday, November 27

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
10:30 AM — Worship
11:30 AM — Fellowship in Metzger Hall

Wednesday, December 1

12 PM — Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, December 3

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study in the Chapel

Planning Ahead at CFPC

Sunday, December 4

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study
10:30 AM — Worship
11:30 AM — Fellowship in Metzger Hall
7 PM — Neighborhood Caroling on the front steps

Wednesday, December 7

12 PM — Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, December 10

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study in the Chapel

Future Planning

Sunday, December 11

Fellowship Time — 'Round the Table
Carol Sing

Sunday, December 18 at 4 PM

Christmas Open House at the Cameron Home

Saturday, December 24 at 7 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service with pre-service music beginning at 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 AM

Christmas Morning Family Worship

Looking Ahead — Sunday, December 4



Covenant-First loves to sing Christmas Carols — please note the bulletin announcements about the special occasions in December where you are invited to join others in singing carols. Our Sermon Series in December is called "Wonders of His Love: Finding Jesus in Isaiah." Isaiah's prophecies revealed the coming Messiah Yeshua (Jesus)

hundreds of years before Jesus was born. On December 18, our children and teens will participate in worship leadership. Bring your whole family as we worship together in preparation for celebrating God's gift of love to us in Jesus. Remember, this year Christmas Day is a Sunday and we will have worship as usual along with a time of singing carols during the service.