

Order of Public Worship of God

The Third Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Why Advent? The answer is to be found in the profoundest mysteries of our humanness. Of course the Lord is here. Of course one needs to keep moment-by-moment account of one’s heart, so to speak. But as we have seen in the case of birth, marriage, and death, somehow ceremonializing what is true does have the effect of assisting us. We are not seraphim, who, we are told, can gaze unblinkingly at reality all the time. We have to come at it by fits and starts. To enact something by an act of will does turn out to have its effect in our hearts. If the principle were false, then the early Christians would have been mistaken to have gathered on Sundays to mark the Resurrection. Somehow the weekly ceremony brought home to them what they believed hourly and daily.”

- Tom Howard, *Evangelical is not Enough*

“Christianity is a statement which, if false is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

- C. S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

“...we want to end war, hunger and poverty in our lifetime. But we do not possess the will to let someone merge in front of us in traffic, and do so with a smile... [ours] is a call to be faithful right where you are, regardless of how mundane that place is.”

- Matthew Redmond, *The God of the Mundane*



OPENING PRAYER

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.

† HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Lift Up Your Heads”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

A Helper just he comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, kindness in distress.

Justice and righteousness ordain
Upon the throne of David reign;
A Child is born, eternal Lord,
The Prince of Peace forevermore.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple, set apart;
The Word made Flesh, descends to dwell
With joy for you who his mercies tell.

So come, my Lord, and enter in,
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
Until thy glorious victory’s won.

† ADVENT LESSON AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE



† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel 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 shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

“What Child Is This”

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

† CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The Athanasian Creed, On the Incarnation

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became flesh. For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son,
is both God and man.
He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,
And he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother:
existing fully as God, and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.
Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.
He is united because God has taken humanity into himself;
he does not transform deity into humanity.
He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.
For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.
He suffered death for our salvation.
He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† GREETING

Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms. Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families before communion.

READING OF GOD’S WORD | Luke 1: 5-25

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series - The Last Prophet

Sermon - “In the ‘Fullness of Time’”
- Rev. James M. Holland

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN | Book of Cerne, 9th century

We come before your sight, O Lord,
 as those accused with our conscience as witness.
We pray, not daring to ask what we are not worthy to receive.
But Lord, you know everything that drives us to confess to you;
 what we are ashamed of,
 and the sins we were not afraid to commit.
With these words we yield to you our hearts and minds,
 and commend to you what we say,
 but not what we have done.
Spare us, O Lord, and forgive the sins we confess.
Have mercy on those who call to you.
And because our senses are weak
 in comprehending your mysteries,
grant, Lord, the things we do not ask
 because of the hardness of our hearts,
 and grant us pardon;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Richard Rolle, d. 1349

O Holy God, in you is all goodness, your pity and mercy made you to descend
 from the high throne down into this world, the valley of woe and weeping,
 and here you took our nature, and in that nature, you suffered pain and death
 to bring our souls to your Kingdom.
 In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

How do we take communion at St. Patrick?

When directed, please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. The white chalices contain wine; the darker ones on the tables have grape juice. The crackers on the tables are gluten-free. The elder will distribute the bread and then follow with the wine chalice. We will practice intinction, where you will dip the bread in the wine. If you prefer grape juice or need gluten-free bread, indicate your preference when the elder comes to you, then go to the table for your elements. After receiving communion, you will proceed to the outside aisle to return to your seats.

Who comes to the Table?

Communion is open to all baptized believers who have made a profession of faith in Jesus. If you have children who have not made a profession of faith, they are not ready to partake of the elements, but please bring them forward to be blessed by one of our elders. If you are not a believer but want to know more about Jesus, you are invited to come forward and simply bypass the table, letting one of the leaders know that you would like to learn more about what it means to know and belong to Jesus.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven 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, and wonders of his love.

† BENEDICTION | 1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
 be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Scripture tells us to make our needs known to God, and to call others to pray with and for us.
 If you would like prayer, elders will be standing in the front of the sanctuary (pulpit side)
 immediately following the service to pray with you.*



Helpful Links:



NEW HERE?

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

NEED PRAYER?

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1087, Collierville, TN 38027
Church Location: 710 West White Road, Collierville, TN 38017
Phone: 901-861-3803 **Website:** www.StPatrickPres.com
Facebook: com/stpatrickpres **Twitter:** @StPatrickPres

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