

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

PRELUDE

Veni, Emmanuel

Martha Sherrill Kelsey

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The prophet of the Most High will go before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

C Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Give glory to the coming King.

C O come, let us worship Him.

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

C We wait for You in hope, peace, and joy.

(The first three candles are lit; pink is for joy.)

ADVENT CANTICLE

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, 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers and come to us, to lighten the darkness of our hearts with Your gracious presence; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.... ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout, daughter of Jerusalem.

P See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation.

C From the house of the Lord we bless You.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.... ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand and make the fallen strong to stand;
show us the glory of Thy face till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee whose advent sets Thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 thence 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P God of power and might, shine Your radiance on this weary world and hear our prayers for everyone in need.

P God of preachers and messengers, You have called us to proclaim the good news. Plant Your Word in our hearts and strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their lives and talents to worship. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of every living creature, the year of Your favor comes to all of creation. Send relief to endangered animals and plants, and sustain those whose livelihood depends on the rhythms of nature. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of all peoples and nations, You ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that Your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of exiles and wanderers, You repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. We pray also for those experiencing economic upheaval due to job loss, medical issues, or community stress. Support the work of disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of the powerful and helpless, You clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow Your spirit upon all caregivers, and enable us to comfort those who turn to us in times of need. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of sinners and saints, You offer joy even in the midst of grief. We are grateful for the beloved people whose lives testified to Your radiant love, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with Thy beloved name.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Chesterfield

Kevin Sadowski

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today’s service:

Lector Rebecca Geminn



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