



Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Music Sunday

December 7, 2025 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Forrest

"Christmas Fantasia" arr. Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

A: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

B: I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

A: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

B: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Light candle.

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

INTROIT #92

"While We are Waiting, Come" (2)

With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

*CALL TO WORSHIP—Liturgist

Please stand as you are able, and join me in the call to worship.

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating,

Leader: redeeming and dreaming,

People: calling and sending,

Leader: listening and loving.

People: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

People: May we worship our God who holds onto hope.

*HYMN #92

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Ribbon

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin adventus = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

1 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.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

"Jesus Loves Me"

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION –Liturgist

Before we hear the scriptures read, let us pray that God's Spirit might open our hearts to allow love in.

Merciful God,
we need bread and we need laughter.

We need music and we need a hand to hold.
We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do.
But maybe more than anything,
we need your Word and a reason to hope.
So move through this space today
and speak to us as only you can.
Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones.
For we need bread and we need laughter,
but most of all, we need you.
Amen.

THE FIRST READING Liturgist Isaiah 43:19-21 (NRSVUE) Notepad

19 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Wonder as I Wander" by Kyle Pederson

THE SECOND READING "The Angel's View" by Steven Shakespeare

SPECIAL MUSIC "Angels We Have Heard on High" Arranged by Dan Forrest

THE THIRD READING "The Birth of Jesus" by Steven Shakespeare

SPECIAL MUSIC

"In Bethlehem" by Erik Dewar and Dan Forrest

HOMILY

"When We are Running Out of Hope, God is at Work"

ADVENT PRAYER

"Silence" by Cole Arthur Riley

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Night of Silence" arranged by John Ferguson

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING –Liturgist

In fear we cling. In love, we open. In courage, we release. In community, we find our lives are inseparable. Shared joy. Shared sorrow. In gratitude for this web of life, let us bring our offerings together with faith.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

OFFERTORY

"Personent Hodie" by Phillip Kern

*DOXOLOGY #606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication—Liturgist

Cross

Emmanuel! God with us! Even as we long to encounter you anew, we remember you are already with us. Taking on flesh in the lives around us, in the resources we share, in the struggles we face. May these resources be blessed to welcoming Christ in this place, in this time, among this community. May we seize every opportunity to embody your love alongside all our neighbors, strangers, and kin. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER—See the back page of the hymnal

At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding" (Book of Order, W-3.049).

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*HYMN #129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Ribbon

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Copyright 2014 and enfleshed.com.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Geoff, Amber, Anna Lea, Ainsle, and Arabella Merl – Advent Wreath Lighters

Betsy and Audrey Patterson – Liturgists

– Vocalist

Pei-An Chao – Cello

Quartet

Christa Perry - Flute

Jeff Rolland – Clarinet

Vince - Percussion

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor



"Something in the Water"
by T. Denise Anderson
Inspired by Isaiah 43:19-21