



B I B L I C A L M I S S I O N A L C O M M U N I T Y

To all who will come -
All Souls opens wide her doors and offers welcome in
the name of our risen Savior Jesus Christ!

December 17, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

A Word about our Worship

Christian worship is about the telling and retelling of God's great rescue story. "In the beginning, God created..." That's how this story begins – with God's creative Word speaking all things into being. So it is with worship. God's Word invites us into his presence in a special way for worship. Yes, God is always present everywhere. Yet, the purpose for which we gather brings a different expectation and experience of God's special presence with his people. Just as he created all things, so he is recreating us in this space calling us by His Word to worship.

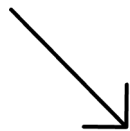
Why the need for re-creation? Not long after the beginning of the story, God's first people rebelled against him by declaring their independence from God's reign and rule. In the Church, we refer to this as the Fall. It signifies the rebellion of the whole human race – every man, woman, and child – seeking to reign and rule over themselves and others in God's rightful place. Yet God, in his grace, calls us by His Word to acknowledge our rebellion by confessing it and receiving from His Word the grace we desperately need for the cleansing of our sin.

In Jesus, we find redemption for our rebellion – past, present, and future. What began with God's glorious Creation does not end with our rebellion in the Fall. This great gospel story culminates with our Redemption as God pursued us by his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior all the way to his own death. In the greatest exchange, God took Jesus' perfectly obedient life and gave it to us as if it were our own. God's Word calls us, then, to the renewal of our minds and the reforming of our hearts as we receive from both His Word and His Table.

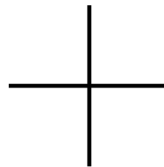
Throughout these movements, we continually commune and communicate with God, responding to His Word in prayer and praise. This is our liturgy – literally – the people's work. It is our act of divine service taken from Revelation 22:3: No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, *and his servants will **worship** him.*



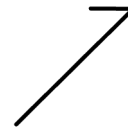
Creation



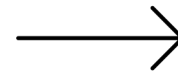
Fall



Redemption



Ascension



Mission

Words for Reflection

*Make them holy – consecrated – with the truth; your word is consecrating truth.
John 17:17, The Message*

Our growth into maturity in Christ is only possible by constant and ongoing exposure to the word of God through one another...As a result, the temple of Christ's body and dwelling place of God grows by means of the word of God spoken by believers to one another.

G.K. Beale

Announcements

Upcoming

- **Christmas Carols Under the Stars** – 12/22 @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Be on the lookout for a signup in your inbox tomorrow
- **Worship time change!** Beginning January 7, we will meet at 10:00 a.m.

ALL SOULS 101

Our next new member course will take place on Sunday, January 7, time TBD

Register today



Connect with us



Thank you for being part of our family today! We'd love to connect with you further. Please fill out the Connect Card on the app or follow the QR Code below to let us know you were here.



God's Word Calls Us to Worship

Psalm 126

What's happening?

Christian worship, like all of life, is guided by God's Word. When we gather together it is at God's invitation – even at his *insistence*.

Like our father, Abraham, we hear and respond to God's Word to leave our "country and our kindred and our father's house" to come receive the blessing of God.

Minister: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

People: **The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

Minister: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

People: **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

Minister: Let us pray...

People: **Amen.**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verse 1

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!

Verse 2

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free,
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Verse 3

O come, thou Day Spring 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!
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore
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God's Word Calls Us to Repentance

What's happening?

Matthew 18:15-20 tells us to confront our sin. We do this both privately and corporately – calling each other by God's Word to repentance both for things done and what we've left undone.

The minister, set apart by God and the Church, "speaks the very words of God" (1 Peter 4:11) in announcing the forgiveness of sins.

Minister: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

People: **God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son; give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Pause for a moment of silent confession followed by a pastoral prayer for the congregation, community, and the world.)

Minister: May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

God's Word Calls Us to Renewal

What's happening?

God's Word tells us to "be transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2). We now turn our attention to receiving instruction from and about God's Word.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

God's Word Calls Us to Renewal

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New City Catechism, Q3:

Answer:

How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Verse 1

For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.
O Lord of Light our only hope of glory
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.
Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

Verse 2

For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.
O Spring of Joy rain down upon our spirits,
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.
Come make us whole be comfort to our hearts.

Verse 3

For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.
O Root of Life implant your seed within us,
And in Your advent draw us all to You.
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.

Marty Haugen
Lyrics powered by Musixmatch

God's Word Calls Us to Renewal

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John 17:6-19

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Homily

“God's Glorious Word”

Central Focus: _____

God's Word Calls Us to Communion

What's happening?

The Sacraments are visible words retelling the gospel story through the physical senses. God's Word invites us to his Table, but only baptized believers who have professed their faith in Jesus are to partake. Baptism is when Christ himself initiates us into the Body of Christ. It is the sacrament of *beginning*, and communion is the sacrament of *continuing*.

Participation means that we are remembering Jesus' death for us as a past event, but also receiving him right now.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Invitation to the Table

Minister: The Lord is here.
People: **His Spirit is with us.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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Thou Who Wast Rich

Verse 1

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Verse 2

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heav'n wards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

O Come Messiah

Verse 1

O come, O come Messiah
O come our Alleluia!
O sing, O sing Hosanna,
O come Messiah Come!

Comfort and joy, Alpha, Omega He.
Sorrow and toil no longer rulers be.

Isaac Wardell
Public Domain

Verse 3

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we wor-ship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

Verse 4

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Frank Houghton | Paul Campbell
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God's Word Sends Us Out In Mission

What's happening?

Having received from the fullness of God's Word and His Table, we are sent out with a "good word" (benediction) to live our lives missionally for Jesus.

Worship culminates in the highest praise of God by highlighting his glory over all creation.

Benediction

Minister: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

People: **Amen.**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Connect with us

Thank you for being part of our family today! We'd love to connect with you further. Please fill out the Connect Card on the app or follow the QR Code below to let us know you were here.



Tithes & Offerings

Online giving is available at any time at allsoulspres.church/give. You may also leave your tithes and offerings in the Offering Box near the front door before or after the service.



Notes

