

THE HUMBLE KING: IMMANUEL

EZEKIEL 17:22-24; MATTHEW 13:31-32

ADVENT



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, December 25, 2022

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON - 2022

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing. It is a yearly representation in our church calendar of the eons spanning from the moment Eve took the first bite of the fruit until that starry night when Heaven touched earth and Christ incarnated, becoming God-man. Fully human. Fully God. Advent culminates in the arrival of Jesus—Messiah, born in the flesh to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

O Come All Ye Faithful

CALL TO WORSHIP | Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Philippians 2:3-11 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

What Child Is This

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 52. What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

A. It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

GREETING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Bud Daniel, *Male Discipleship Coordinator*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

Angels We Have Heard On High

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Matthew 13:31-32 (ESV)

Title: The Humble King: Immanuel

Teacher: Bud Daniel

Ezekiel 17:22 Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it." ... Matthew 13:31 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for all of His goodness and mercy on us, a proud people. Thank Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the way that He has incarnated with us and delivered us from separation from Him.
2. Confess your arrogance to Jesus for thinking you know better than Him, asking Him to forgive you and heal you from your pride.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His character and the beauty in what He values. He is a savior who loves, cherishes humility, and who provides dignity and grace to the lowly.
4. Who in your life has an “I got this” attitude”? Pray for them, that they would put their hope and dependency in Jesus; and that Holy Spirit would show you how you struggle with the same thing.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to imbed in your heart and the hearts of this city, a posture of humility. Ask for a humility that is sourced by the wonder and magnificence of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us.

