

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDES

*Prelude in E-flat
Come, Savior of the Gentiles*

Alexandre Guilmant
Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: The Candle of Hope

CHORAL RESPONSE #314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness Christ, Be our Light
(verse one)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

(refrain)

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

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PRAYER OF RESPONSE

ADVENT SONG #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(verse one)

Hyfrydol

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.

(verse two)

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 12)

L: "Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid." Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, Lord of all places and times, we confess that we do not live in expectation of your coming kingdom of hope. We accept lies as truth, we exploit our neighbors, we abuse the earth, and we refuse your justice and peace. In your merciful love, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your coming and to seek those things that will endure when Christ comes again.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 12)

L: “Let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.” In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God. AMEN.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promises coming to fulfillment; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD! ⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Great Thou Art

Presented by: Marilyn Rodenhause

by Stuart Hine

arr. Lloyd Larson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Daniel 6:11-23

¹¹The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.” ¹⁴When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver

you from the lions?”²¹ Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.”²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

SERMON

“The Spirit of Trust”

Rev. John Wahl

SONG OF RESPONSE #686

God of Our Life

Sandon

(verse one)

God of our life, though all the circling years, we trust in thee.
In all the past, though all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

(verse two)

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hopes true promised land. Be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith’s fair vision changes into sight.

(verse three)

God of the coming years through paths unknown we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart’s true home when all our years have sped.

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CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Rudolf Moser

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Karl H. G. Davin