



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
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December 13, 2020
The Third Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life’s joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world’s sorrows, tasting the coming joy.”

—Timothy Keller

PRELUDE

“Christmas Fantasy”

Charles Callahan

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“Come, Rejoice Believers” Dieterich Buxtehude (1637 – 1707)

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Pryor Family

OPENING HYMN No. 100, St. 1 - 3

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

When we look around at ourselves and our world, God of all time, we find little reason to rejoice. Called to lives of gentleness, too often we do not speak out against those who stir up and promote anger and hurt. Invited to be generous, we tighten our grips on our clothes, our food, and even our love. Called to be just with everyone, it is all too easy to turn away from those who are different from us. Because You are our salvation, You choose to forgive us, Joy of our hearts. We are renewed by Your love so we can be more caring; we are given new life, so we can serve those around us; we are showered with Your gladness, and invited to share the joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is coming who will heal and lead you. The promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the joy that God offers to you today.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest.

HYMN No. 92

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 53:3-12

SPECIAL MUSIC

"My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord" (The Magnificat)

from THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE
Randall Thompson (1899 – 1984)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-6

SERMON

"An Inn Keeper Trapped by Routine and Expectations"

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Wake Up!”
Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs

Joe Cox

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN No. 100, St. 4

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

arr. Lani Smith

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Noel Piercy & Susan Jones
Rae Gabrielle de la Crétaz, Soloist
Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs
Michael Hardenberg, Cantor
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers