



NOVEMBER 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“Advent is an annual refresher course on the nature of Christian hope. We look back across the long arc of history to understand and remember who God is and how God works in the world — mighty and merciful; ever-faithful and abounding in love; creating, redeeming, sustaining all that is. We look forward, too, straining to see the new thing God is doing — a river flowing in the desert, a fresh shoot growing from an old stump, weapons of war turned into instruments of peace.” ~ David Gambrell.

PRELUDE

“I Wonder as I Wander (out under the sky)”

arr. Gwyneth Walker

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

****HYMN No. 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us..... guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

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

****HYMN No. 85, St. 1**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

TIF IN VELDELE

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children in kindergarten – 7th grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-23

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Comfort Ye” & “Ev’ry Valley” from MESSIAH

G.F. Handel (1685 – 1759)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

SERMON

“Come Home to Hope”

Rev. William Schram

HYMN

“The Day Is Coming”

The lands in longing call out your name;
The tongues are different, the prayer the same.
With humble spirits can we believe
That God is bigger than we conceive?
The day is coming, the Lord will move
With the hand of justice and the heart of love.
The will of heaven on this earth be done;
The day is coming, oh let it come.

With willing spirits, Lord, let us dare
To kneel with strangers and join in prayer.
Grant in your mercy the hope that heals,
The law of love your word reveals.
The day is coming, the Lord will move
With the hand of justice and the heart of love.
The will of heaven on this earth be done;
The day is coming, oh let it come.

A barren wasteland we must reclaim,
With hearts for bearing each other’s pain.
Grant us the courage to make a place
To plant tomorrow’s seeds of peace.
The day is coming, the Lord will move
With the hand of justice and the heart of love.
The will of heaven on this earth be done;
The day is coming, oh let it come.

From: *“Roll Down, Justice!”*

Text: Laurie Zelman.

Music: Mark A. Miller.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

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. 121, St. 1 & 3**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“From Heaven Above”

arr. Wilbur Held

****Those who are able may stand.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Susan Jones & Noel Piercy
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Soloist
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



“Heart at Home”
Jan Richardson



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