

Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:30 am

First Sunday of Advent

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REFLECTION

*"The lesson for Advent is still: Stay awake. Be alert. Live in expectation. Live now as you will when the Son of Man does return."*

Rev. David Ewart

PRELUDE

*"Wachet auf! Ruf uns die Stimme"*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

\*HYMN NO. 95

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord "*

PREPARE THE WAY

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Music Ministry*

\*HYMN NO. 88 verses 1 and 2

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.

***Refrain***

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace during our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (based on 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
**In Christ we know that we are forgiven and we are at peace. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

BERTHIER

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, keep watch take heart!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

RESPONSE AFTER CHILDREN'S SERMON

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

Pages 652-653, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee"*

Jean Berger

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

Pages 47-48, NT

## \*HYMN NO. 104

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill;  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

## THE INVITATION

The Advent promise is this: A child would be born called Emmanuel.

**That promise would be fulfilled in Bethlehem.**

That promise continues to be fulfilled around the communion table,

**where the risen Lord is with us in spirit and in truth, in power and in grace.**

Come to the family table of our Lord.

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You are the God of light in whom there is no shadow.

.... Be born in us that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## INSTITUTION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

arr. Kevin McChesney

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's spirit in the gifts of bread and cup. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet. Through the grace of Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

INVITATION TO GIVING

\*HYMN NO. 321

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

AURELIA

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, on birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"Amen"*

POSTLUDE

*"Tell Out My Soul"*

Paul Manz

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\* Please rise in body or spirit

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Valerie Shondel, Director of Music

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC Handbell Ensemble:

Barbara Bruchac, Chretien Endres, Rosie Holland, Barbara Romaine

Ray Liptak, AV Engineer

Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer

Matthew Califf & Michael Sperrazza, AV Team

✠ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✠ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

**[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)**