

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:30am

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Eric Carlson

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Welcome and Invocation

Lighting of First Advent Candle

Responsive Reading

Psalm 80:1,2

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

You who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

Stir up your might

And come to save us!

Prayer

Pastor John

Hymn/Song

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,

In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed

The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;

Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;

But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,

Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

(TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.; MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Response to Confession *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (vs. 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. Composite; MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988; Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver)

Special Music

“Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble”

Martin Smith

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s 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.

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory Response

“My Soul Cries Out” (vs. 1)

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 dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

(TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990; MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

Message

“Help Wanted”

Pastor John

Song

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

(TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. And para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt, MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953;
Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Benediction

Brothers and sisters, as the Church of Jesus Christ, go from this place...

**Knowing Christ, growing in God's love, and serving as
the Holy Spirit leads.**

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