



December 17, 2023 — Advent, Week 3

At Home Bulletin

WELCOME and ADVENT READING

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed his people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98

INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, (3xs)
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created; *(refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest; *(refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father,
late in flesh appearing; *(refrain)*

Text: Attr John Francis Wade, 1751; Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade's *Contus Diversi*

10,000 Reasons

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *(chorus)*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *(chorus)*

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending –
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! *(chorus)*

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Psalm 117A

Tune: All Creatures of Our God and King

GOD'S LAW AND OUR CONFESSION

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire." *Matthew 5:21-22*

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty!

We confess that we are a people of unclean lips.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty!

We confess that we are a people of unclean hearts

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty!

We confess that we are a people of unclean minds.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty!

We confess that we are a people of unclean hands.

Refine us with your holy fire.

**Sprinkle us that we may be cleansed,
to serve your holy name as a holy priesthood.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

What has Christ done?

All things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Why should we follow Christ?

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

-Adapted from Colossians 1:15-20 & Hebrews 1:1-4

CHILDREN'S SERMON

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

To Us a Child of Hope is Born

To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,
Him shall the tribes of earth obey, him all the hosts of Heav'n.

His Name shall be the Prince of Peace, forevermore adorned,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord.

His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know,
Justice shall guard His throne above, and peace abound below.

To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the mighty Lord of Heav'n.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-56

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Leaping for Joy”

Pastor Ian Hard

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

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CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

If you are following along at home, please refrain from taking Communion as it is a form of worship meant to be celebrated in the physical presence of the body of Christ.

MERCY OFFERING

HYMN OF SENDING

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

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

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel

Words: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis H. Redner

BENEDICTION

Sermon NOTES: Leaping for Joy

Joy, a gift . . .

From God

For God

Of God