

*We are a family in Christ worshipping in Spirit
and truth, growing together in God's grace,
and connecting the community with the gospel.*

CHRIST CHURCH PCA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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CHRIST CHURCH PCA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

December 23, 2018

~ Advent Week 4~

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP *

O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

**O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

SONGS OF PRAISE *

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn 196

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

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INVOCATION *

** Stand as you are able*

Bold Print – speak together in unison

CONFESSION OF SIN

Christ our savior calls us to follow Him in newness of life.

**Yet we have preferred the known to the unknown,
the comfortable to the challenging
the safe to the disquieting.**

**We are like Israel who desired
to return to the familiar slavery of Egypt
instead of being led into the Promised Land.**

Forgive us O Lord.

Forgive us our fear, mistrust, and rebellion.

Forgive us for not following where Christ leads.

**Forgive us for closing our eyes to the splendor
of what you have promised,
for giving in instead of pressing on.**

O Lord, give us victory over fear and doubt.

Restore to us hearts of trust and wills of obedience.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our 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

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

For parents who are interested in nursery care

Children 3 and under

may be brought to the nursery at this time.

Please plan to pick your child up after the sermon.

CHOIR

A Christmas Offering

PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION *

Once in Royal David's City Hymn 225

SCRIPTURE READING * Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Zechariah and Elizabeth - The Unprepared”

~ 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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COMMUNION

*Wine is in the inner rings of the tray
in purple colored cups.*

*Juice is in the outer ring of the tray
in clear cups.*

SONG OF SENDING *

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.

Refrain:

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

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

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.

Text: John Morrison, 1781 Music: Bruce Benedict, 2009

BENEDICTION *