

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2023 10:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

Deliver us when we draw near to You, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind: Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

Call to Worship

Bob Sawyer

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Congregation: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Leader: In Christ was life, and the life was the light of men.

Congregation: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

Congregation: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor...

Leader: Christ has come from the Father and has come into the world,

Congregation: Now he has left the world and gone to the Father – having overcome the world.

All: Praise the Alpha and the Omega, the first and last, the beginning and the end, who is and who was and who is to come!

- from Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:9; 16:28,33; Revelation 1:8; 22:13

Invocation

Call to Worship

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together. God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

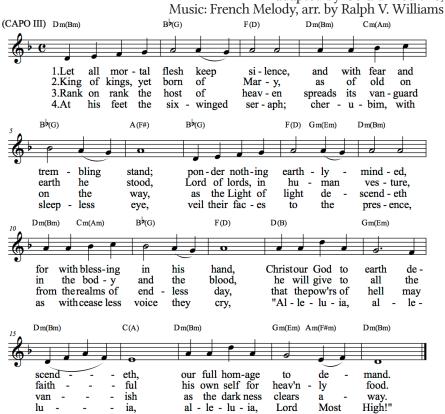
Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale;

Music: 13th Century Plainsong, arr. by Thomas Helmore 1.0 come, O come, Em el, and ran-som cap-tive man u 2.O 3.O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on come, thou Rod of Jes free thine own from Sa-tan's se, 4.0 come, thou Day - spring, spir - its by thine come and cheer our 5.0 come, thou Key Da vid, come and o - pen wide our of 4 Is el, that in lone - ly ile ra mourns ex -Si nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the peo ple from tyr an ny; depths of hell thv ad vent here; dis perse the gloom - y clouds of make heav'n 1y home; safe the way that leads on





Words: Liturgy of St. James, adapted by Gerald Moultrie;



Confession of Sin

Leader: Unexpected God, your advent alarms us.

Congregation: Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy.

Leader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light,

Congregation: now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;

Leader: that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,

Congregation: we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen. – from *Revised Common Lectionary and Book of Common Prayer*

Confession of Sin

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

Assurance of Grace God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Now hear this promise of grace and forgiveness from the word of God, from Hebrews 9, verses 24 through 26:

Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly... but as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Leader: To those who repent of their sin and look to Jesus Christ for salvation, the forgiveness of sins is fully yours, by the grace of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

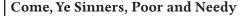
Congregation: the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,

Congregation: and our mouths will declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



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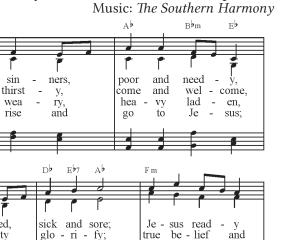
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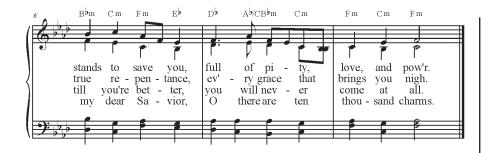
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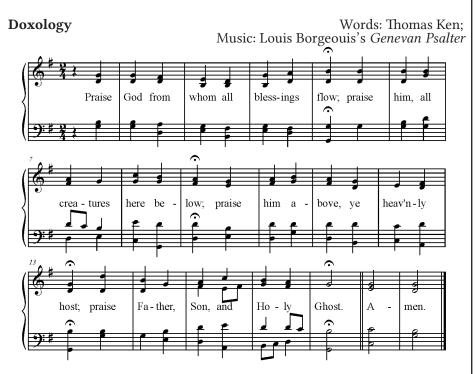
by

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Words: Joseph Hart;



Offertory



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Offering Collectors:

Philip De Groot, James Goodman, Sarah Goodman, Sean O'Hern

Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church.

Passing of the Peace

We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other. Life Together

We share important announcements and prayer requests for our church community.

Scripture Reading

The public reading of God's Word is integral whenever God's people gather to worship. The first step to faith is listening to his Word.

Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit

Life Together

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-17, page 807 in pew Bible

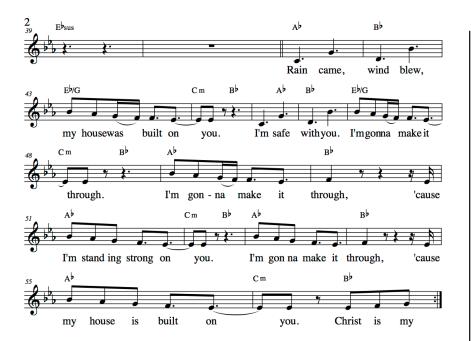
Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake





Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distributing of Elements

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements

At the end of the service,

please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

Communion Servers:

Philip De Groot, James Goodman, Sarah Goodman, Sean O'Hern

Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

Servers come forward as liturgy begins.

We ask that those in the balcony come forward first, followed by those on the main floor, starting in the back row.

Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free wafers are in the center of each bread tray for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.





Benediction

Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

WELCOME

Welcome visitors! We're glad you could join us. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge. org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org.

SUNDAYS

ADULT EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Kindergarten through High School Sunday school classes and Adult Education are currently offered Sunday mornings from 9:15a-10:15a. The Adult Education class meets in the social hall.

FOR FAMILIES

Nursery

- Open during the service for children ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact children@ctkcambridge.org with questions.

Children's Worship

- Children 4 years through Grade 2 are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes with teaching suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Parents may pick up children during the song after the sermon. Please head to the back foyer (4y-Grade K) and Social Hall (Grades 1 & 2) and be sure to have your security tag with you.
- Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions.

During the service

- Encourage children to participate in each part of the service. For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.
- There are 'Pew Pouches' containing writing and drawing supplies in the front foyer of the church, and sermon worksheets available for kids to pick up during the Passing of the Peace to the right of the stage.

During the week

- Reread the Scripture passage. For younger children, read from a storybook Bible or more accessible translation like International Children's Bible (ICB) or NIrV available at biblegateway.com.
- Discuss the parts of the service as a family using the worship guide (ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids). Have everyone recall a part of the service that stood out to them.
- Listen to and discuss the songs from the service at ctkcambridge.org/songs. Visit this page to also pre view songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Now as always, Community groups are central to our life together at CTK as a way to study and pray together and serve each other and our communities. Some groups are meeting in person and some are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Men's Bible Study: Andy Stuntz (astuntz@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry: Martha Olson (women@ctkcambridge.org)

Youth Ministry: Ariana Smartt (ariana@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships

BU: nathan.dicks@ruf.org, serena.jones@ruf.org

Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org, catherine.cook@ruf.org

MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org

Meals Ministry: Erin Ward (meals@ctkcambridge.org)

Overseas Partner Liaison: Morgan Crago (missions@ctkcambridge.org)

Online Resources

Samples of the songs for Sunday's worship service are posted on the website by the Wednesday before the service, along with the coming Sunday's bulletin and Scripture passage, at ctkcambridge.org/songs.

For **online giving**, visit ctkcambridge.org/giving.

Sermon recordings and Adult Ed classes can be found on the website at ctkcambridge.org/sermons and ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation, respectively.

For recommended daily Bible reading plans selected by pastoral staff, visit ctkcambridge.org/daily-bible-readings.

To sign up for the CTK Reader, our weekly e-newsletter, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, CCLI #912939.

LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

For any verbal announcements you may have missed, please visit ctkcambridge.org/this-week.

Women of CTK! You're invited to the CTK Women's Christmas Brunch and White Elephant Gift swap! The party starts at 10a on Saturday, December 9th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a wrapped gift to swap and a dish to share, and invite friends and neighbors! To sign up for the potluck, visit ctkcambridge.org/women.

Please note, because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we'll be doing one service instead of two -- it will be a hybrid of our regular service and our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service, at **4p on December 24th**.

The annual CTK Winter Getaway is coming up in January (more info at ctkcambridge.org/getaway). This year, we're looking for some more help with planning, especially with free-time activities. If you'd be interested in helping to plan group activities, please reach out to laura@ctkcambridge.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/calendar, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

Sat, Dec 9, 10a :: Women's Christmas Brunch :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women

Save the Date :: Jan 26-28 :: CTK Winter Getaway ctkcambridge.org/getaway

WEEKLY EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

Tue, 7a :: Morning Prayer :: Online ctkcambridge.org/prayer

Tue, 7p :: Women's PM Bible Study :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women

Thu, 9:30a :: Women's AM Bible Study :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women

Fri, 6:15a :: **Men's Morning Bible Study** :: Online ctkcambridge.org/men

LINKS

VISITOR CARD:



READER:



Kids' Sunday Summary:



GIVING:



Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 864-5464 or by email:

Senior Pastor Church Administrator Music Director Children's Ministry Director Youth Ministry Intern Rev. Travis Drake Laura Bullock Amanda Holley Dana Russell Ariana Smartt travis@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org