CHRIST THEKING

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. -1 John 4:16a

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2022 10:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting and hoping. For four Sundays prior to Christmas Day we prepare our hearts for the advent, or coming, of Christ at Christmas. As we do, we remember those who lived before Christ came and we recall their expectant hope of God coming to save. We also remember the Second Coming, or next advent, when Jesus will return and make all things new, even us. We wait in hope for that day.

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

Call to Worship

Leader: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

Congregation: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Let us hear what you, O LORD will speak,

Congregation: For you will speak peace to your people, to your saints.

Leader: Surely your salvation is near to those who fear you.

Congregation: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Leader: You have made your dwelling place with man.

Congregation: You will dwell with us, and we will be your people,

All: And you yourself will be with us as our God.

- Adapted from *Psalm 85:7-10*, *Revelation 21:3*

Preparation

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

Call to Worship

Catherine Perkins

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

Invocation

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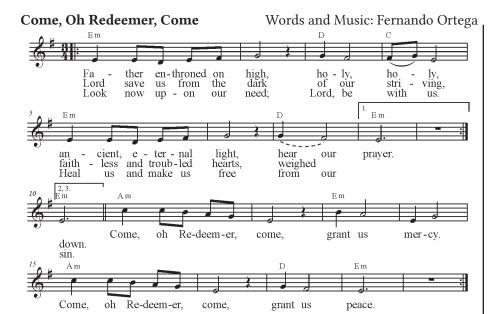
God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

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;





Confession of Sin

All: Our most loving Father, we wonder at your love. It is patient and kind, not envious or boastful, not selfish or irritable, not keeping a record of wrongs. It does not rejoice in evil but rather in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Your love never fails – the ultimate standard of which is the sacrificial love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Yet we confess that for all this love, we have not loved you as you have loved us.

We have loved ourselves more than you. We have loved things more than people. Like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan, we have passed by on the other side when we've seen others in need. We have not been patient or kind. We have been envious and boastful, selfish and irritable, keeping many records of wrongs, reveling in evil, having little endurance, little faith, and little hope. Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of love. Make us new through the power of our Holy Spirit that we may love like you do. Amen.

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: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – from *Romans 8:1-5*

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: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

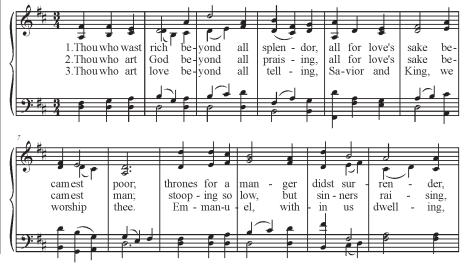
Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

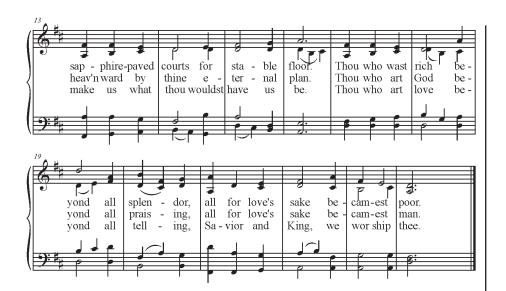
Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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

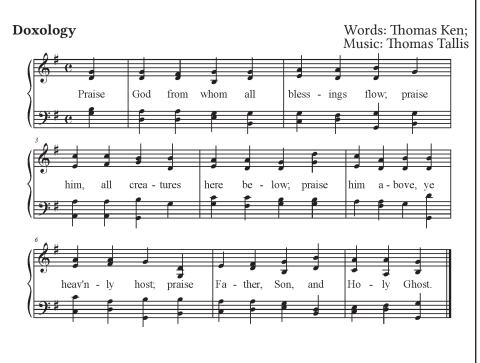
Thou Who Was Rich Beyond All Splendor

Words: Frank Houghton; Music: French Carol melody, arr. by Charles H. Kitson





Offertory



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.

Prayers of the People

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

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

Prayers of the People

All: Our Father 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 also have forgiven 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.

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!

Life Together

Scripture Reading

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Isaiah 53:3-12, p613 in pew Bible

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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Sermon

Come to Earth to Taste Our Sadness

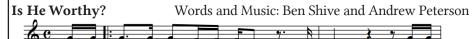
Rev. Travis Drake

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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.

At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

Lord's Supper

Invitation and 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



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

Sunday school classes for Kindergarten through Grade 8 are currently offered Sunday mornings from 9:15a-10:15a. Adult Education will resume in the New Year.

FOR FAMILIES

Nursery

- Open during the service for up to 8 registered participants ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years, with a waitlist available. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact Lara Kastelein (lara@ctkcambridge.org) with questions or to cancel if registered and unable to make it.

Children's Worship

- Children age 4 thru 2nd grade are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes that teach about worship suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Pick up from Children's Worship comes after the sermon, during the song prior to the Lord's Supper. A parent can head to the back foyer outside of the social hall; pick up will take place at the door at the top of the stairwell. Please remember your security tag during pick up.
- 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:

Join us on Christmas Eve at 4pm for a family-friendly service of Lessons and Carols. Invite friends and neighbors as we read through the Christmas story, from Genesis through the Gospels and sing Christmas hymns that celebrate the coming of our Lord. Please note, there is no childcare available during this service, but the upstairs nursery and social hall will be open to children and their parents as needed.

Please note, our **Sunday service on Christmas Day** will be at 11am and will be a shorter service.

Hear ye, hear ye! **Registration is now open for the 2023 CTK Getaway**, taking place January 27 thru January 29! Our speaker this year will be Rev. Glenn Hoburg, pastor at Grace Downtown in Washington, D.C. Visit ctkcambridge.org/getaway for more information and to register!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

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

Fri, Dec 16, 7p :: Middle & High School Group :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/youth

Sat, Dec 24, 4p :: Christmas Eve Service :: Sanctuary ctkcambridge.org/calendar

Sun, Dec 25, 11a :: **Christmas Day Service** :: Sanctuary ctkcambridge.org/calendar

Fri, Jan 27 - Sun, Jan 29 :: CTK Getaway :: Brookwoods 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

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

Links

GIVING:



READER:



VISITOR CARD:



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 Children's Ministry Coordinator Youth Ministry Intern

Rev. Travis Drake Laura Bullock Amanda Holley Dana Russell Lara Kastelein Ariana Smartt travis@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org amanda@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org lara@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org

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