



Come, Thou long expected JESUS
Dear desire of every NATION,
Joy of every longing heart.

Prelude *A Selection of Christmas carols* recorder quartet

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Andrew Vander Maas

Bidding Prayer

read by Beth Kusserow

Beloved in Christ, this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the account of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Prayer of preparation concluding with a time for silent prayer

Elder Dick Friedrich

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Gladys Wierenga, reader (8:30)
Pam Hollis, reader (11:15)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of
Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
 the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and might,
 the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the
wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
 and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
 and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
 and the weaned child shall put his hand on the
adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.

Dona Nobis Pacem (*Grant us peace*) recorders

* *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* Trinity Hymnal 30

* *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* Trinity Hymnal 211

* **Invocation**

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession James 4:11-12

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

See, amid the Winter's Snow Trinity Hymnal 199

Declaration of Forgiveness Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Kay Verbrugge, reader (8:30)

David Wolf, reader (11:15)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

...

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

8:30 service: During the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:15 service: Church bags are available in the foyer.

In Dulci Jubilo

recorders

In dulci jubilo (In the sweet celebration)

Let us our homage shew:

Our heart's joy reclineth

In praesepio; (In the crib)

And like a bright star shineth

Matris in gremio, (on the mother's lap)

Alpha es et O! (You are Alpha and O)

O patris caritas! (O love of the Father!)

O Nati lenitas! (O gentleness of the Son!)

Deeply were we stained.

Per nostra crimina: (Through our offenses)

But Thou for us hast gained

Coelorum gaudia, (The joys of heaven)

Qualis gloria! (What glory!)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

recorders

arr. Norman Phillip Hart

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung,
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading Jonah 3:10-4:11

^{3:10} When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.

⁶ Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

The Gift of Grace

Grace for the Openly Rebellious

Grace for the Outwardly Religious

Grace Beyond Our Reason

Receiving Grace

Resting

Activating

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

Invitation to the Lord's Table John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Trays will be passed through the rows. The bread served is gluten free. Hold the bread or cup until all are served and we'll partake together.

During the passing of the bread *I Wonder as I Wander* solo arr. Lewis Henry Horton

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

During the passing of the cup Luke 1:30-35

Williamson family, readers (8:30)

Eldersveld family, readers (11:15)

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Savior of the Nations, Come congregation

text, Ambrose, 4th century & Martin Luther, 1523
translated Calvin Seerveld, 1984
music, Erfurt Enchiridion (early Lutheran hymnal), 1524
arr. Bruce Benedict, Cardiphonia Music, 2009



Ooo. _____

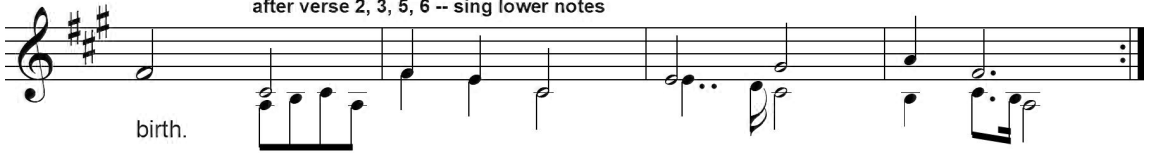


1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, show your - self, the vir - gin's son.
2. Not by hu - man power or seed did the wom - an's womb con - ceive;
3. Ma - ry then was found with child, still a vir - gin, chaste and mild.
4. Christ laid down his ma - jes - ty, passed thru dark Geth - se - ma - ne.
5. Christ in glo - ry in - ter - cede for your crea - tures' suf - f'ring need.
6. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing: Praise to Christ our new-born King!



Mar - vel heav - en, won - der earth, that our God chose such a
on - ly by the Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made
God had fa - vored her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of
Though he left his Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own
Let your re - sur - rec - ting power soon com - plete the vic - t'ry
With the Fath - er, Spir - it ___ one let your last - ing king - dom

after verse 1, 4 -- sing upper notes
after verse 2, 3, 5, 6 -- sing lower notes



birth.
flesh.
Peace.
throne.
hour.
come.

Ooo... _____

Prayers of the People concluding with the following prayer, spoken together

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world with out end. Amen.

Collect for the Nativity of Christ, *Book of Common Prayer*

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820

Offertory*Joy to the World!*

congregation

Trinity Hymnal 195

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*** Gloria Patri** Trinity Hymnal 734

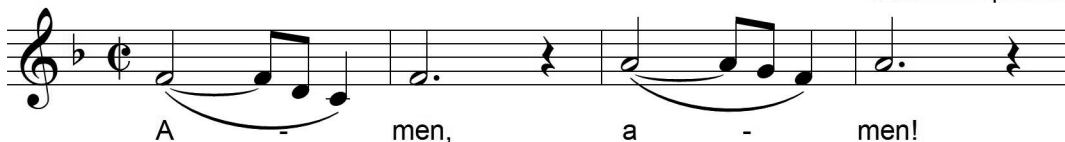
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*Kids and All: You are invited to come forward
to play the bells and wave the flags as we sing our closing Amen song.*

*** Benediction**

*** Amen!**

traditional spiritual



A - men, a - men!

1. See him in the man - ger,
2. Now he is our Sav - ior,
3. Sing it o - ver,



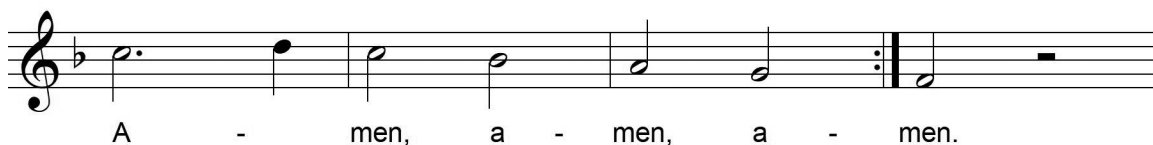
A - men, a - men, a men.

*just a lit - tle ba - by.
and his name is Je - sus!
sing it o - ver!*

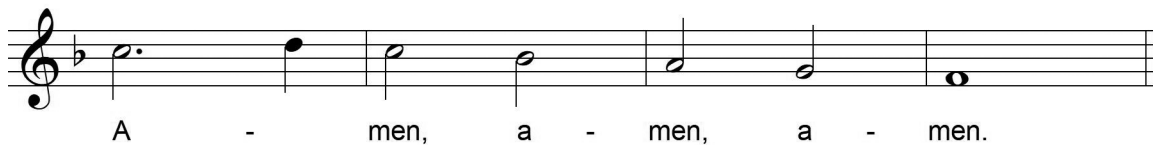
*Hear the an - gels sing - ing!
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - ia!*



A - men, a - men.



A - men, a - men, a - men.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Please exit quietly so all can hear the recorder quartet's joyful song!

* **Postlude** *Riu, Riu, Chiu (Laugh, Laugh, Squeal)* recorders

He comes to give life to the dead
He comes to repair the Fall of all mankind
This Child is the light of day
He is the Lamb of whom St. John spoke
Riu, riu, chiu...

Worship musicians

Rachel Morales, Alice Paredes, David Bading, Nola Nielsen, recorders
Ruben Morales, percussion

Linus Guerra, song leader & guitar
Judah Guerra, song leader & bass
Lena Bading, solo
Susan Guerra, piano

Cover art: Morgan Vander Maas

Latin translation: Michael & Samuel Brinks

Opening Reading: Advent Bidding Prayer by Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, 1918