



Sighting the Sacred

Third Sunday of Advent | December 11, 2022

Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Matthew 11:4-6



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adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Advent Candle Lighting:

Readers: Bob and Betty Rice

Reader 1: Mary Sings, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Reader 2: And yet in the hardness of life we sometimes question, “where, O God is your promise, where O God is your favor?”

Reader 1: Mary reminds us as she faces the unknown and the challenges of bearing and raising a child, “Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name.”

Reader 2: Mary’s song is ours as we face the unknown, for we too bear and raise the promise of Christ in this world.

Reader 1: We see God's strength in our weaknesses and are filled with good things through God's grace and mercy.

Reader 2: And so we rejoice with Mary as God makes our joy complete;

All: Joy bursts forth from challenges, releasing us from all that holds us captive, and healing all that is broken. Let us be like Mary, let our souls magnify the Lord for we are blessed. Amen.

Advent Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

From ancient days to modern time
into the dark your light does shine
you find the lost and save the stray
and give us hope both night and day.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to us O Israel.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Music of Preparation *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

J. Krug

The Christ Church Ringers

*Explanation: An ancient English Carol
in which Jesus is anticipating
his birth and life, and sees it as a dance!*

Sermon

What did you expect to see?

Offertory Hymn 198 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

1. My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is his name. All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts, dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure, leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

Celebrating our Gifts and Offerings

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Giver of all, we live and move and have our being in Your Presence. The wonder of your creation sings out all around us in stars and sunsets. We confess that we live as a people wrapped in worry, failing to be present, and neglecting opportunities to participate in grace and reconciliation. Bring us back to You through our loving, our efforts at forgiveness, and our longing for restoration. Shape us O God, as Advent people who take time to know You in those around us and are always ready for Your arrival. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: God walked upon this earth sharing our human life in Jesus Christ, God has conquered sin and death forgiving us all through Love and Grace, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God, amen!

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Sending Hymn 3047 God Almighty, We Are Waiting

HYFRYDOL

1. God Almighty, we are waiting
for a Savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey;
give a sign that you are near:
burning bushes, parted waters,
food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders,
help us see you in a child.

2. God Incarnate, we are waiting
for the feast day of your birth.
Looking back and looking forward
to the Christ's return to earth.
Help us to proclaim the gospel,
'til the world is reconciled.
Let us set your holy table
for each woman, man, and child.

3. God the Spirit, we are waiting
for your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
at your mercy we will bow.
Search our hearts and make us ready,
speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, your people,
to receive you like a child.

Benediction

May worry give way to wonder and busyness to blessedness.

May promise become fulfillment as time reveals God's eternal Love. May we seek out sightings of the Sacred and participate in the coming of Emmanuel. Amen.

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice arr. R. Mallory
The Christ Church Ringers

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

Liturgist: Dot Waugaman
Stephen Minister: Cat Reinke
Guest Organist: David Gay

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Words: Beth Rambikur 2020

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Words: Georg Weissenel 1642

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Words: Miriam Therese Winter 1987

“God Almighty, We are Waiting”

Words: Ann Bell Worley

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If you have any questions, please call the office: 520.327.1116
or send us an e-mail: office@ccumtucson.org.

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