

First Sunday of Advent | December 3, 2023

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude**  *Partita on PICARDY* Albert Zabel

\*Call to Worship:

One: Joy to the world the time is here

**All: For Christ to come again!**

One: So in our hearts, our lives, our homes

**All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!**

\*Hymn of Praise 196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.  
  
2. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Advent Candle Lighting: John and Michelle Tejada

Reader 1: At that time, in the fullness of time, at the time of which God had spoken...

Reader 2: Advent, is the beginning of time. Marking the new year for the Church.

Reader 1: It is a time of repentance and remembrance as we turn our hearts back towards the promises of God.

Reader 2: Today we remember the words of the Prophets of Old “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined.”

*Light the Candle of Hope*

**All: God beyond time, you fill our lives with Hope as light fills a room chasing away the darkness. Illuminate our places of struggle and sorrow, so that your Hope is always lighting our way. Amen.**

**Advent Hymn:** 209*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

MERLE’S TUNE

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,

Who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;

God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 64:1-9

One: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

So that the mountains would quake at your presence –

As when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-

**All: to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the**

**nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.**

One: From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no

eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

**All: You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember**

**you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.**

One: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our

righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

**All: We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind,**

**take us away.**

One: There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take

hold of you,

**All: for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered**

**us into the hand of our iniquity.**

One: Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are

our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

**All: Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not**

**remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people!**

**Children’s Moment**

*All Children are invited to come up to the front and afterword go to Sunday School*

Music of Preparation *Advent Hymn* Don Besig

The Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37

Sermon No one knows

\*Music of Response 216 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as those of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.  
  
2. 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 us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender

with sweetness fills the air,

dispel in glorious splendor

the darkness everywhere.

True man yet very God,

from sin and death now save us,

and share our every load.

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Offertory I*s Your Heart Prepared For a King?* Robert Lau

Tom Messmore, solo

\*Doxology VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall Come to thee, O Israel

Offertory Prayer

**\*Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord is with us!

**All: Emmanuel has come to dwell.**

Pastor: He has raised up a mighty savior for us

**All: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace.**

Pastor: Eternal God, from your spark, your Divine Imagination, a Universe of Wonder, galaxies, stars, worlds, beings, all come into existence. You have placed each in this world to offer hope and share joy so that we might turn toward each other with compassion and generosity. When our love fails, Your grace holds us tenaciously. Today we praise You for the wonders of your love and come to your table to feast with all creation on your sustaining Grace, and so we declare.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations, to give knowledge of salvation to all people and teach us forgiveness and grace. He was, and is Emmanuel, your presence with us.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on this gift of food and drink. Let this be for us the grace and love of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

Communion Hymn 626 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.  
  
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood;  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

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

\*Sending Hymn *View the Present through the Promise*

AR HY Y NOS

1. View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.

Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.

Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and

believing in the hope past hope’s conceiving: Christ will come

again.

2. Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.

Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.

Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving

be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

3. Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.

Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.

Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating

to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Postlude Toc*cata on PICARDY* Albert Zabel

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

Liturgist: Paula Jameson

Stephen Minister: Cat Reinke

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“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Words: Michael Perry, 1973 (Lk. 1:68-79)

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Words: Anon. (Lk. 2:7)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent; trans by Gerard Moultie, 1864 (Jn. 6:35-58; Rev4)

“View the Present through the Promise”

Words: Thomas H. Troeger

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