

Good Shepherd Church
A Baptist Reformed Fellowship
Season of Advent
Behold the Sovereign Yahweh comes!
December 11, 2022



We rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Romans 5:2

Gathering unto God

God's Word of Greeting:

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Call to Worship-

Pastor & People

"All nations whom you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord; and shall glorify your name."
(Psalm 86:9)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Hymn of Praise- Come Praise and Glorify Our God

Come praise and glorify our God
The Father of our Lord
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms
His blessings on us poured
For pure and blameless in His sight
He destined us to be
And now we've been adopted through
His Son eternally

In Him our sins are washed away
Redeemed through sacrifice
In Him God has made known to us
The myst'ry of His will
That Christ should be the head of all
His purpose to fulfill. >Chorus

Chorus:

*To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves*

Come praise and glorify our God
For we've believed the Word
And through our faith we have a seal
The Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit guarantees our hope
Until redemption's done
Until we join in endless praise
To God the Three in One. >Chorus
Words and Music by Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin
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CCLI 819582

Come praise and glorify our God
Who gives His grace in Christ

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Gregory

Hymn – The King Shall come When Morning Dawns

The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills,
And life to joy awakes.

2. Not as of old a little child
To bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.

3. O brighter than the rising morn
When He, victorious, rose,
And left the lonesome place of death,
Despite the rage of foes; —

4. O brighter than that glorious morn
Shall this fair morning be,
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
And we his face shall see.

5. The King shall come when morning dawns,
And earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
The day that aye shall last;

6. And let the endless bliss begin,
By weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong,
And truth shall be extolled.

7. The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray,
Come quickly, King of kings. Amen.

CM 8686 Morning Song
Greek Tr. John Brownie

Call to Confession -

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitent hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Rom. 5:8; Heb. 4:16

We give thanks to you, Redeemer God, for our Lord Jesus Christ, who came in quietness and humility, but will come again with power for all to see. Our Lord Jesus' coming again is a two-edged sword. It comforts us, and it convinces us anew that your grace is beyond measure. Yet it also confronts us and compels us to recognize our own unrighteousness. Enable us to put aside our false pride, confess our sins, and receive your loving pardon.

Confession of Sin –

Gracious Lord, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no one can stand. Your gracious mercy is our only hope and we come to ask for your forgiveness.

Gracious Father, we confess that all too often we do not think of our coming King. We do not live our lives in the expectant waiting to which your Word summons us. Too often we do not live with the sense of urgency for the task you have set before your church. We put off bringing the gospel to the world and living out your kingdom's values of justice and righteousness. Forgive us, loving Lord. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. Fill us with your Spirit and with power, so that at Christ's triumphant return we may be unashamed to stand before you with people of all tongues and nations. We pray these things in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.

Pardon Affirmation-

Thanks be to God, who has loved us from the beginning, and who promises that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and will purify us from all unrighteousness.

Our Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from the earth. In that day we will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. Let us rejoice in his salvation."

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!

1 Timothy 1:15 **Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!**

Hymn- Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your 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 you are,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, O promised Rod of Jesse,
of your birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,

he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit,
raise us to your glorious throne.

Authors: St. 1, 4, Charles Wesley, 1744; St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978

Tune Name: Hyfrydol

Hymn- Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
all who hate him must, confounded,
hear the trump proclaim the day:

Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment, come away!

4 Now Redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear!
All his saints, by man rejected,
now shall meet him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

5 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on your eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for your own.
O come quickly, O come quickly;
Alleluia! come, Lord, come.

Author- Charles Wesley

Tune- Regent Square 87 87 87

We Read the Sacred Writings

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35

First Testament- Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 98

New Testament- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57**

New Testament- **John 5:19-29**

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

Hymn- 960 In Resurrection Bodies

In resurrection bodies
like Jesus' very own,
we'll rise to meet our Savior
in joy around his throne:
we'll marvel at the mercy
that bids poor sinners come,
be welcomed at his table,
and share his heavenly home!

2. O, joy of resurrection,
all sin and sorrow past,
to see the face of Jesus,
to be like him at last!
Made perfect in his image,
complete in Christ the Son,
in resurrection glory
we'll share the life he won.

3. O, resurrection body,
set free from pain and death,
sin's curse for ever vanquished
by Christ's victorious breath!
Lord, teach us in our trials

your hidden ways to trace,
to walk by faith, discerning
your mysteries of grace!

4. O, resurrection body,
young, radiant, vibrant, free,
with powers unthought, undreamed of-
how rich your joys shall be!
Through endless years to marvel,
design, create, explore,
in resurrection wonder
to worship, serve, adore!

5. With holy joy, Lord Jesus,
we sing the life you give,
the hope you hold before us -
the strength by which we live!
Lead on in sovereign mercy
through all life's troubled ways,
till resurrection bodies
bring resurrection praise!

Author- Margaret Clarkson
Tune- Bentley 76 76D

Hymn- O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

3. O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

4. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

5. O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Authors: Latin Antiphons, 12th Cent.; Latin Hymn, 1710
Tune Name: Veni Emmanuel

We Engage in Prayer

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5-7

Concerns and Prayers of the People

Advent Collect

O Christ our God, who will come to judge the world in the manhood you assumed: We earnestly ask you to sanctify us wholly, that in the day of your coming we may be raised in honor to glorify you forever in our glorified bodies. Amen.

We Present Our Offerings

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Dedication Prayer

Advent Doxology

Text: Paula Meador Testerman

Tune: "Old Hundredth"

O Glorious God, your praise we sing
And give our lives as offering;
Bring peace on Earth, and with us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

O Glorious God, to you we bring
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;*
Spirit of peace, among us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

We Heard God's Word Proclaimed

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Romans 8:23-24

Sermon text- Romans 8

Sermon- "A Sure and Certain Hope" by Wayne Conrad

Hymn – Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day
Till evening falls in crimson rays
His fingerprints in flakes of snow
His breath upon this spinning globe
He charts the eagle's flight
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Chorus

Hallelujah

Let all creation stand and sing

Hallelujah

Fill the earth with songs of worship

Tell the wonders of creation's King

Verse 2

Creation gazed upon His face
The ageless One in time's embrace
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man

A second Adam walked the earth
Whose blameless life would break the curse
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally

Verse 3

Creation longs for His return
When Christ shall reign upon the earth
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age
When He renews the land and sky
All heaven will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme
The glory of our God and King

Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niJD1WO3zEk&ab_channel=HeartlandEFC

Catechism Questions on Advent

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection

Q. How does "the resurrection of the body" comfort you?

A. Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul, and made like Christ's glorious body.

Q. How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A. In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.

Advent Service of Holy Communion

led by Jeff Gregory

Preparation for Communion

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming took away our sins, enable us to prepare our hearts and minds to be pleasing to you, that we will not be ashamed at your second coming. Bless now this service at your Holy Table, that you, O Christ, may be made known to us afresh in the breaking of the bread. **Amen!**

Invitation

All who love our Lord Jesus Christ and are waiting for his coming with a spirit of continual repentance and faith in Him, are warmly invited join us at this Table.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

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.

An Advent Confession

We believe in the name of the only-begotten Son of God, by Whom all things were made, and by Whom we were created.

We believe that He was made flesh and lived among us.

The Holy Spirit overshadowed the virgin Mary causing her to conceive a child. Just as Christ's people partake of flesh and blood, so did he do the same. He was born of a woman, and he took the nature of a servant.

Since he was fully a human, he was subject to every kind of temptation as we are, yet he did not sin.

This we surely believe.

Jesus is the Lord, the Messenger of the covenant, and in him we delight. He spoke that which he knew to be true, and testified to what he had seen.

As many people as received Him, to them He gave power to become the children of God.

"Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may also be with me."

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. He will judge both the living and the dead. For the hour is coming, in which all who are in the graves shall hear the voice and shall come forth to judgment. Then Christ will sit on the throne of his glory, and all the holy angels will be with him, and all the nations will be gathered before Him.

But who may endure the day of his coming? And who will be able to stand when he appears?

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come.

Behold, the Lord God will come with a strong hand, and his arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and He will complete all his work.

Since by a man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ will all be made alive. Then comes the end, when He will deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father. And He will put down all rule, and all authority, and all power; for He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. And when all things are subjected to Him, then God will be all in all.

This we most certainly believe.

By Your atoning death for our sins, by Your burial in the grave, by Your triumphant resurrection and ascension, by Your sitting at the right hand of God, by your sending the Holy Spirit, by Your all-conquering intercession, by Your holy sacraments, by Your divine presence, by Your coming again to Your Church on earth or by our being called home to You,

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God.

The Institution

1 Cor. 11:23-26

The night in which he gave himself up for us, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Apostle Paul tells us that whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Father, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice because of Christ's sacrifice for us, and we proclaim the mystery and glory of our faith:

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

Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here.

We give you thanks for this bread and cup and dedicate them to sacred use.

Let this bread and wine be to us the body and the blood of Christ, that we may partake spiritually of Christ's body and blood, that we may eat and drink of him whom to know is life eternal.

By your Spirit evermore unite us to Christ our Lord, unite us to one another, and make us one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, gracious Father, now and forever.

Amen!

Distribution of the Bread

The body of our Lord Jesus was given for you.

Take and eat this in the remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him by faith in your hearts with thanksgiving

Communion Hymn 645P "By Christ Redeemed, In Christ Restored"

By Christ redeemed, in Christ restored,
we keep the memory adored
and show the death of our dear Lord
until he comes.

2. His body, broken in our stead,
is seen in this memorial bread,
and so our faltering love is fed
until he comes.

3. The drops of his dread agony,
his lifeblood shed for us, we see;
the wine shall tell the mystery
until he comes.

4. And so, in this most sacred rite,
our Savior's dark betrayal night
with his last advent we unite
until he comes.

5. Then shall the trumpet call be heard,
then shall the ancient graves be stirred,
and with the great commanding word
the Lord shall come.

6. O glorious hope! O happy state!
Let not our hearts be desolate
but, strong in faith, in patience wait
until he comes.

Author-George Rawson

Tune: In Memoriam (Maker) 888 4

Distribution of the Cup

May the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

*Prayer: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
as we take this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death
until your come in power to complete our redemption. Amen.*

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you, our Father, that through this holy communion table you have enabled us to fellowship anew with our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for his sacrifice for our sins, the ransom of his own blood he paid to bring reconciliation between you and us sinners.

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and spiritual light to those who are blind and bound in sin. Keep us faithful, humble, and joyful in your service until Christ comes again in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Jesus our Redeemer we pray. **Amen!**

(Parts of above service were adapted from *Handbook for the Christian Year*, p. 60-61, and from *Hymnal and Liturgies of the Moravian Church*, p. 35-37)

Hymn- Christ Is Coming!

Christ is coming! Let creation
from her groans and travail cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, O blessed Prince of Peace.

2 Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
she shall yet behold your glory,
when you come back to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.

3 Long your exiles have been pining,
far from rest, and home, and thee:

but, in heav'nly vestures shining,
they their loving Lord shall see:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Haste the joyous jubilee.

4 With that blessed hope before us,
let no harp remain unstrung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
"Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

Author- John Ross Macduff

Tune: Neander 878787

Benediction - *The God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* 1 Thessalonians 3:1ff