

Advent means “coming.” This is the season of the Church Year when we remember that Christ will come again. He came once as a baby in Bethlehem and will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. The emphasis of the season is on preparation and watchfulness. The expectancy of Advent is fulfilled on Christmas.

As we focus our thoughts on the coming Savior tonight, we do so by looking at a selected number of Psalms.

Therefore, let us “Praise the Coming King!”

PRE-SERVICE

JUNIOR HANDBELL CHOIR

THE OPENING HYMN

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING
Christian Worship #1, verses 1-3

1 The ad - vent of our King Our
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -
 3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To

prayers must now em - ploy,
 car - nate deigns to be,
 meet your low - ly King,

And we must hymns of wel - come sing In
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To
 Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The

strains of ho - ly joy.
 set his ser - vants free.
 peace he comes to bring.

Please Stand

THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of God the Father, who has loved us with an everlasting love and sent his Son Jesus as the Author and Perfecter of our faith:

Congregation: Father, we praise and worship you.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose way was prepared by John the Baptist, who came to be our peace and to reconcile us to the Father by his death and resurrection:

C: Lord Jesus, we praise and worship you.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith and nurtures us in that faith to its completion:

C: Holy Spirit, we praise and worship you. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Even as John preached a baptism for repentance to the people of Judea, so we are daily called to acknowledge before the Lord our sins and sinfulness. In his love for us, God gives us the power to repent and to become the sons of God.

C: Father, I confess my sinfulness. Not all my crooked places have been made straight, nor all my rough places plain. With my life, my thoughts, my heart, I have many times said "No" to you. I have gone my own way. I have turned my back on you and on those around me. I am not worthy of your love. I am not prepared to receive you. And yet you come to me. You sent your only Son to die for me. In his resurrection you have given me life. In him I trust.

P: For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Please be Seated

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM

CANDLES OF ADVENT

*Light one candle in the night. Light one candle of hope;
Hope for the world to calm its fear;
Hope for the news we long to hear, hope in a child who will soon appear.
Light one candle of hope. Light one candle in the night.
Light one candle of faith; faith that can heal a world in need,
Faith that can conquer hate and greed,
Faith in a child who will come to lead. Light one candle of faith.
Advent candles warm and bright fill the world with radiant light.
Help us find the Promised One; guide us to the child who will come.
Light one candle in the night. Light one candle of love;
Love that will teach the world to care, love that surrounds us ev'rywhere,
Love in a child who will help us share. Light one candle of love.
Light one candle in the night. Light one candle of peace;
Peace that will free the world from war,
Peace that will last forevermore,
Peace through the child we are waiting for.
Light one candle of peace.
Advent candles warm and bright fill the world with radiant light.
Help us find the Promised One; guide us to the child who will come.
Advent candles spread your light of hope, and faith, and love and peace.*

PRAISE THE COMING KING

1. OUR KING IS SO BIG

MEDITATION

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 96

- P:** Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
C: **Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**
- P:** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
C: **For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

- P:** For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
C: **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**
- P:** Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
C: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**
- P:** Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.
C: **Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**
- P:** Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
C: **Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**
- P:** Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

PRAYER

- P:** Almighty God, all creation is to praise you and does so by being and doing what you have made and redeemed creation to be and do. Your works are marvelous and call for you to be worshiped and glorified throughout the universe. Lead us to join in with all creation in singing the praises of your splendor and majesty, but especially praising you for the salvation you bring on that final day redemption of our bodies. This we pray in the name of our salvation, Jesus, the coming King who reigns forever and forever.
C: *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

CONGREGATION HYMN

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN
Christian Worship #35, verses 1-3

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers

Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the

Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

PRAISE THE COMING KING
2. OUR KING CALMS OUR FEARS

MEDITATION

SCRIPTURE READING

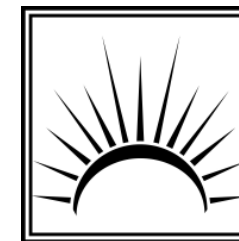
PSALM 107:23-32

- ²³ Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
²⁴ They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
²⁵ For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
²⁶ They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.
²⁸ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
³⁰ They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.
³¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
³² Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, mighty creator of heaven and earth, who is like you—who can fathom the mystery of your handiwork? You have made great wonders that surround us and point us back to you. And yet your greatest wonder is the mystery of your Son, who, taking on our flesh, dwells among us. Fix our hearts on him so that even in life's tempests and storms, we may know that you are near and so live unafraid.

C: *(Spoken)* Amen.



CONGREGATION HYMN

LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

Christian Worship #28, verses 1-4



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
 2 What the fathers most de-sired, What the
 3 A-bram's prom-ised great re-ward, Zi-on's
 4 Wel-come, O my Sav-ior, now! Joy-ful,



tru-ly kept his word And at last to
 proph-ets' heart in-spired, What they longed for
 help-er, Ja-cob's Lord— Him of two-fold
 Lord, to you I bow. Come in-to my



us did send Christ, the sin-ner's help and friend.
 man-y a year Stands ful-filled in glo-ry here.
 race be-hold— Tru-ly came, as long fore-told.
 heart, I pray; Oh, pre-pare your-self a way.

PRAISE THE COMING KING

3. OUR KING CARES FOR HIS WORLD

MEDITATION

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 147:7-18

⁷ Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;
 make music to our God on the harp.
⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
 he supplies the earth with rain
 and makes grass grow on the hills.
⁹ He provides food for the cattle
 and for the young ravens when they call.

¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
 nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;
¹¹ the Lord delights in those who fear him,
 who put their hope in his unfailing love.
¹² Extol the Lord, Jerusalem;
 praise your God, Zion.
¹³ He strengthens the bars of your gates
 and blesses your people within you.
¹⁴ He grants peace to your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.
¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth;
 his word runs swiftly.
¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool
 and scatters the frost like ashes.
¹⁷ He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
 Who can withstand his icy blast?
¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them;
 he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

PRAYER

P: Stir up our senses, O Lord, to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell the good gifts of your creation, as we await the coming of your Son. Your power covers the heavens, sends rain upon the earth, and brings forth life from the land. May your power so enliven our hearts with your life.

C: *(Spoken)* Amen.



LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES
Christian Worship #4, verses 1-2



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
The end of all our woe he brings; There -
fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.

PRAISE THE COMING KING
4. OUR KING ENDURES FOREVER

Meditation



P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
C: His love endures forever.
P: Give thanks to the God of gods.
C: His love endures forever.
P: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
C: His love endures forever.
P: To him who alone does great wonders,
C: His love endures forever.
P: Who by his understanding made the heavens,
C: His love endures forever.
P: Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
C: His love endures forever.
P: Who made the great lights—
C: His love endures forever.
P: The sun to govern the day,
C: His love endures forever.
P: The moon and stars to govern the night;
C: His love endures forever.
P: To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt
C: His love endures forever.
P: And brought Israel out from among them
C: His love endures forever.
P: With a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
C: His love endures forever.
P: To him who divided the Red Sea asunder
C: His love endures forever.
P: And brought Israel through the midst of it,
C: His love endures forever.
P: But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;
C: His love endures forever.
P: To him who led his people through the wilderness;
C: His love endures forever.
P: To him who struck down great kings,
C: His love endures forever.

P: And killed mighty kings—
C: His love endures forever.
P: Sihon king of the Amorites
C: His love endures forever.
P: And Og king of Bashan—
C: His love endures forever.
P: And gave their land as an inheritance,
C: His love endures forever.
P: An inheritance to his servant Israel.
C: His love endures forever.
P: He remembered us in our low estate
C: His love endures forever.
P: And freed us from our enemies.
C: His love endures forever.
P: He gives food to every creature.
C: His love endures forever.
P: Give thanks to the God of heaven.
C: His love endures forever.

PRAYER

P: All good and wonderful gifts, O God, come from your gracious hand. For your steadfast love endures forever, from the beginning of time until the end of the days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: (Spoken) Amen.



JUNIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

PROPHETS KNEW

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!
 Prophets knew long ago Christ would come to earth.
 Led by Isaiah they foretold His birth.
 God in human frame, Emmanuel His name.
 Prophets knew long ago, long ago.
 Prophets knew long ago this Christ would be the King!
 “Glory to God!” Let heav’n and nature sing.
 God in human frame, Messiah was His name.
 Prophets knew long ago, long ago.
 Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Royal David’s town.
 Redeemer of Israel, promised to all a King without a crown!
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
 Prophets knew that in a manger stall
 Angels and shepherds would find the Lord of all!
 God in human frame, Jesus was His name.
 Prophets knew long ago, long ago.
 Prophets knew long ago, long ago.
 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!*

THE OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.
C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.
C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! 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 and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

Please be Seated

THE CLOSING HYMN

HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES

Christian Worship #12



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Pastor Brian Adams

Pastor Jacob Hoff

Organist & Junior Handbells

Miss Heather Schmidt

Junior Choir & Adult Choir Director

Mrs. Marie Becker

Flute

Mrs. Nancy Willms