



We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb.

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Christian Formation

10:00 Worship

Nursery for Ages 0-5 and Mother's Room: We have a safe and fun nursery located at the end of the hall in the Veritas Cafe. Please follow the signs. We use a Kid Check program for security.

Video: There is a video feed of the worship live-streamed to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway for anyone who needs to step out of the service.

Isaiah 63:1-9

Isaiah sees the heavens as a vast curtain, concealing God, and begs God to rip them apart and step down into this world with his felt presence.

Essential to Isaiah's message is the uniqueness of Israel's God. Unlike the idols, the God of Israel intervenes in this world marked by sin and despair. He never fails to meet those with true faith.

Isaiah laments the long-standing patterns of sin among God's people. When God's "face" shines upon his people, they live in his favor (Num. 6:25-26); when he hides it due to their unfaithfulness, they suffer.

If you read this prayer in relationship to Christ's birth, it takes on new dimensions. Try doing so now.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 2, 2018 | First Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters, let us worship God by remembering Isaiah's prayer 700 years before Christ:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;
do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

LATIN ANTIPHONS, 12TH C.



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
3. O come, thou Son of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our



Is - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads___ on



here, un - til the Son of God_____ ap - pear.
save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er_____ the grave.
high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



Confession of Sin

Confession

Every person has but a single life before eternal judgment. This repudiates reincarnation and any idea that there will be a second chance to believe after death, since immediately after the reference to the fact of death comes the phrase “and after that comes the judgment,” with no hint of any intervening opportunity for change of status. The final judgment will take place when Christ comes again—he died once as an offering for the sins of many, and he will appear a second time in judgment, when he will save his followers.

“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

Just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that comes the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28

Lord Jesus:

We are a world at war.

Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people.

Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of ‘good’ intentions but lagging at fulfillment;

Our only hope of righteousness is you—you alone.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh,

Our world waits

For your peace,

For your pardon,

And for your grace.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

The Apostles’ Creed

The Creed

Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles’ Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 4th century.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS, 4TH C.



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be-got - ten ere the worlds be-gan to be,
2. Oh that birth for - ev - er bless-ed, when the vir - gin full of grace,
3. Let the heights of heav'n a-dore him, an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing.
4. Christ to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing, he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race,
Pow'rs do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King.
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have _____ been,
and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - - - er,
Let no tongue on earth be si - - - - - lent,
Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - - - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er-more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er-more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er-more and ev - er - more.
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er-more and ev - er - more.

Assurance of Pardon

In that day, declares the LORD,
I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away
and those whom I have afflicted;
and the lame I will make the remnant,
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
from this time forth and forevermore...

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

Brothers and sisters, the angels announced the fulfillment of these promises in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ, the promised ruler, secures our peace. In Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

THE FIRST NOEL

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL



1. The__ first__ No - el the__ an - gel did say,
2. For__ all__ to__ see there was__ a star
3. Then let__ us__ all with one__ ac - cord



was to cer - tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
shin-ing in__ the east,__ be - yond__ them far,
sing__ prais - es to__ our heav'n - ly Lord;



In__ fields__ where they lay__ keep - ing their sheep,
and__ to__ the__ earth it__ gave__ great light,
who has__ made Heav'n and earth__ of naught



on a cold win - ter's night__ that was__ so deep.
and so it con - tin - ued both day__ and night.
and with__ his blood__ man - kind__ has bought.



No - el,__ No - el, No - el, No - el,__



born is the King__ of Is - ra - el.

GLORIOUS LIGHT

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY, IAN HANNAH, 2005



1. Glor - i - ous light! See the dawn__ of sal - va - tion:
2. Long__ has the world fought the song__ of the an - gels;
3. There__ is a day all cre - a - tion has longed for,



An - gels in white fill the skies____ with their won - drous
Hea - ven-ly mus - ic is drowned__ by a war - ring
when__ all of time has been spent____ and the Lord re -



song,__ a - wak - 'ning the earth__ with news of his
world.__ Yet hope burns a light__ that shat - ters the
turns.__ His song we'll re - peat,__ as Hea - ven com -



birth;__ Join the hymn__ of the high - est hea - vens. *to v. 2*
night;__ Turn your heart__ to the call of glo - ry. *Chorus*
pletes__ pro - mised peace__ that will fill the na - tions. *Chorus*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est! Peace__ to



men on earth. Come__ and a - dore him with



won - der, Christ__ Lord of Hea - ven and earth.____

Welcome and Announcements

Offering

The offering is part of our regular worship. Our hope is that all gifts offered will come from an understanding that we give because God first gave to us, and that every penny will be carefully and thoughtfully invested in cultivating faith in Jesus Christ.

Litany for Advent

Lord Jesus, remember your church, O Christ;
and send your Spirit of unity, courage, and holiness.
By shedding your blood, you have purified us;
keep us ready to welcome the Day of your coming.
Come to us in mercy, O Christ.

Call from among us heralds of your gospel;
may they go to the far ends of the earth
as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.
Give joy to all your faithful servants;
may they follow you all the days of their life.
Come to us in power, O Christ.

Nurture within us your Spirit of love;
may we never close our hearts to any of our sisters and brothers.
Bring to an end the divisions between Christians;
gather us in one visible communion.
Come to us in love, O Christ.

Have mercy on all who suffer persecution for your name's sake;
uphold them by your strong Spirit,
that they may remain true to you in all their trials.
Comfort all who are suffering in their hearts or in their bodies;
give them health and peace to sing of your power.
Give eternal rest to all who are dying;
may the light that never sets shine upon them.
Come to us in comfort, O Christ.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Sermon

Luke 1:1-4

Sermon Series
*Luke: the Gospel of
Amazement*

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

"Researched"
Rev. Brad Chaney

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors, and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we fell into sin.

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose coming opened to us the way of salvation
and whose triumphant return we eagerly await.**

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight,
to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people.
Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of life divine.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Wine is available in the inner two circles; grape juice is available in the outer ring. Gluten-free wafers are available in a basket on the back table.

We hold the bread and wine until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

We ask that you dispense with your cups by the back door following the service.

Just as the climax of all history will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, we conclude our worship in the presence of God by feasting. The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.

FULLNESS OF GRACE

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY, STUART TOWNEND, 2004



1. Full-ness of grace in man's hu-man frail - ty; this is the won-der of
 2. Full-ness of grace, the love of the Fa - ther shown in the face ___ of
 3. Full-ness of hope in Christ we had longed for; prom - ise of God ___ in



Je - sus. Lay - ing a - side his pow - er and glo - ry,
 Je - sus; stoop - ing to bear the weight of hu-man - i - ty,
 Je - sus. Through his o - bed - ience we are for - giv - en,



hum - bly he en - tered our world. He chose the path of ___
 walk - ing the Cal - va - ry road. Christ, the ___ ho - ly ___
 o - p'ning the flood - gates of heav'n. All of our hopes and



mean - est worth; scan-dal of a ___ vir - gin birth. Born in a sta - ble
 in - no - cent, took our sin and pun-ish-ment. Full - ness of God, de -
 dreams we bring glad-ly as an of - fer - ing. Full - ness of life and



cold and re - ject - ed; here lies the hope of the world.
 spised and re - ject - ed, crushed for the sins of the world.
 joy un - speak-a - ble, God's gift of love to the world. *Choir ending*

PRAISE TO GOD WHOSE LOVE WAS SHOWN

AMY GRANT, MICHAEL W. SMITH, 1983



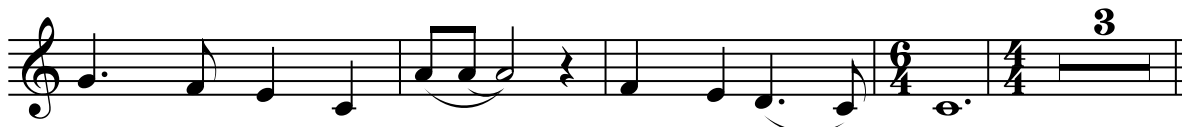
1. Praise to God whose love was shown who sent his Son to earth.
2. Still a high-er call had he, de - liv - 'rance from our sins.
3. Now we stand with strength and pow'r, the sons of_ God on earth.



Je - sus left his right-ful throne, be - came a_ man by birth.
Come to set all peo - ple free from Sa - tan's hold with - in.
Faith - ful to the fi - nal hour, Christ's right - eous - ness our worth.



The vir - gin's ba - by_ Son,_ all cre - a - tion praised him
For by the sin of man we fell;_ by the Son of God he
And now all praise be_ giv-en for the Babe, the Son, the



God in - car - nate, come, come a - dore_ him.
crushed the pow'r of hell,_ death we fear no more!
Sav - ior King is ris-en! Christ is Lord in - deed!

Benediction

Let us go forth and serve the world
as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

And may God our Savior keep you from stumbling and present you before his
glorious presence without fault and with great joy.

Jude 1:24