

Advent Communion

Sunday, November 27, 2016 | 6pm

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Fred Markey, organ

Wayne Barlow

Congregational Introit

“Ye Gates Lift Up Your Heads”

St. Georges, Edinburgh

Ye gates lift up your heads on high; ye
doors that last for ay— be lift-ed up, that— so the King of—
glo - ry en - ter may! But who of glo - ry is the
King? The might-y Lord is this, Ev'n that same Lord, that
great— in— might— and strong in bat-tle is. Ev'n that same Lord, that
great— in— might— and strong— in— bat - tle— is.
Al - le-lu - ia!
A - men, A - men, A - men.

Dr. Todd Smedley, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Corey Gray, Rev. Ron Meyer,
Rev. Thomas Myrick, Dr. Robert Norris, and Rev. Rob Yancey, *Pastors*

Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight; behold, he is coming.

People: *Our King is coming, triumphant and victorious. He shall speak peace to those far off and those who are near.*

Pastor: The day shall dawn upon us from on high, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

People: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; Alleluia.*

Pastor: O come let us adore him.

People: *O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn No. 123

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The Call to Confession

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near to God and he will draw near to you; humble yourself before him and he will lift you up. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit. The Lord does not despise a broken and contrite heart.

The Confession

People: *Almighty God our heavenly Father, you who makes your home with those of a humble and contrite spirit; before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sin. Forgive us for ignoring your presence in the Spirit and our failure to look for the return of our Savior. We confess our worldly cares have blinded us to your coming. Most loving Father, have mercy on us, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive the guilt of our sin and deliver us from its power by your Holy Spirit that we might hereafter more worthily magnify your holy name.*

Declaration of Pardon

Pastor: Surely he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that gave us peace and by his stripes we are healed.

Hymn

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Aberstwyth

Women and children: Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Men: Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.

Women and children: Watchman, does its beautiful ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Men: Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Men: Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Women and children: Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Men: Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Women and children: Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Pulpit side: Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.

Lectern side: Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Pulpit side: Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.

Lectern side: Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 132:11-18

page 519, pew Bible

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Winchester New

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry, announces that the Lord is nigh;
 Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,
 Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty Guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
 Without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
 Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Call for the Offering**Offertory**

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”

Randall Thompson

Melissa Thatch, soloist

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

He hath showed strength with his arm, he that scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He hath holpen his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy;

As he spake to our fathers and to Abraham and to his seed forever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word**New Testament Reading**

Luke 1:57-80

pages 856–857, pew Bible

Sermon

“A Song of Blessing”

Rev. Rob Yancey

Hymn

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

Forest Green

Blest 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 his people peace.

Now from the house of David, a child of grace is given,
 A Savior comes among us, to raise us up to heaven.
 Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
 The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness, the sun begins to rise,
 The dawning of forgiveness, upon the sinner’s eyes,
 To guide the feet of pilgrims, along the paths of peace.
 O bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease!

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one catholic and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

The Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right for us to give thanks. It is our joy and our salvation at all times and in all places to give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, everlasting God, through Christ, our Lord.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing in human suffering. We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host, Amen.

The Institution

Pastor: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again. For on the night of his arrest he took bread and, after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration and Lord's Prayer

The Invitation

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, draw near to the holy table, and hear the gracious words of the Lord Jesus Christ; "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger and he that believes in me shall never thirst; he that comes to me I will in no wise cast out."

The Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Passing of the Peace

Communion Response

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Benediction

Postlude

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Jan Bender

We welcome children in our worship service this evening. There is no childcare tonight; however room 210, just off Halverson Hall, is open for parents to care for their children, 3 & under, if needed.

Next Sunday, December 4

Morning Service

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

"Tribulation"

Matthew 24:15-28

Dr. Todd Smedley

*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be celebrated.*

Evening Service

6:00pm

"Understanding the Times"

Romans 13:11-14

Rev. Ron Meyer

Advent by Candlelight

*Special music by Fourth Orchestra
and Jubilate Quartet*

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Fourth Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).