

HOPE CHURCH
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 17, 2017 ~ 11:00 AM
THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE *All Glory Be to God on High*

J S Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting*

TODA LA TIERRA

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"
one whose name is "God-with-us" our Savior shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

SENTENCES

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

**He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.**

He himself was not the light,

but he came to testify to the light.

from John 1

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;

**God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

from Isaiah 61

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Red #70 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

PUER NOBIS

*SALUTATION

*Congregation to rise in body or spirit

Bold type indicates congregational response

ADVENT PRAYER

God of Life, Spirit of Wisdom,
**open our hearts to the strength and beauty
of your presence among us
in our lives and in our world.**

**Gather us with your blessing and clothe us
with your mercy, faithfulness, and goodness.**

**As the sound of good news speaks out
to the oppressed, the prisoner, the desolate,
draw us in to your call of renewal and justice
given by the Promised One to a weary world.**

**Join us to the movement of your Spirit -
anointing, freeing, filling -
that what is sown in the grace of salvation
may flourish in true abundance
for all creation. Amen.**

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SACRED DANCE *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

"Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is nigh!" we hear the cry,
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

st. 1&2 Weisse, st. 3 Wiersma

So, when next he comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.

All creation joins in witness,
God's salvation sown on earth.
Faithfulness shown all around us;
Ever through the Spirit, birth.

ADVENT LITANY

Come, Emmanuel, God with us;
we long for your light to shine among us.
Anoint us with your life-giving Spirit
and revive our fainting souls;
**sow within us the true joy and praise
nurtured by your faithfulness, justice and blessing.**
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
**so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise to spring up.**
My soul magnifies the Lord!
And my whole being rejoices in God my Savior!
The Lord has done great things;
holy is God's name through all generations.

the Advent candle is lighted

THE WORD OF GOD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Rejoice! Rejoice!
**Prepare the way for Jesus who comes to bring us joy.
We light a candle on this day and join our hearts to say:
"Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel." Jesus brings us joy.**

John R. Paradowski

Children ages 3 through grade 5 leave for Children's Worship

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

p. 603

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE OF MARY Red #69 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

THE EPISTLE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

p. 960

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 1:6-8, 19-28

p. 862

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Advent Wisdom: Creating Strength and Beauty*

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ~ *silent meditation*

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Our Song of Hope* – VII.21

approved in 1978 by the RCA as a statement of faith

**We sing to our Lord a new song;
we sing in our world a sure Hope:
God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
and perfect their fellowship in divine love.
Christ will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more.
There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.
Come, Lord Jesus:
we are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

LIFE OF HOPE

CALL TO PRAYER *Wait for the Lord*
congregation sings twice

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the call to prayer: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final cadence on a whole note.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Throughout the prayer the following response will be used:

Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

... ending with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, and pass it back.

Offertory *Magnificat*

John Ferguson

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendants forevermore.

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host;

*** Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

***or praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

*RECESSIONAL HYMN Red #79 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

Those wishing to listen to the postlude are welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

Wait for the Lord, music by Jacques Berthier © 1984 by Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France. GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-70325