

December 13, 2020 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: "I Always Cry at Christmas" Richard Chard, Page and Walter Afanasieff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING SONG: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" - v. 1
and refrain

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SONG OF PREPARATION: NO. 92 – "While We Are Waiting, Come" - v. 1

With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 88 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – v. 1, 5-7

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.

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession (not printed) - I would like to take this

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

Holy God, creator, redeemer, sustainer of life, transforming love, we know that Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. It is easy for us to be thankful when you comfort us in our personal afflictions. It is much more difficult to be grateful when we are afflicted, confronted, and challenged by the Truth, knocking the wind out of us, shaking the ground beneath us. We know the reality of both. Confession is about admitting the temptation to remain in one place or the other, forgetting that Spirit invites us to embrace both equally. We are deeply, profoundly loved beyond our understanding. We are also deeply, profoundly challenged and confronted when we have succumbed to and basked in comfort and convenience at the expense of others. We truly want to love ourselves and others completely but

the cost of doing so can be frightening ... prompting guilt, complacency, fantasy and illusion ... Oh God, help us to rejoice in the fullness of who you are and what you are doing in this world, even as we struggle through the challenges of daily living in the Spirit ... hear us as we pray silently about these things ...

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 104 – “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” - v. 1

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 100 – “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We affirm that Jesus embodied the call of Isaiah to preach Good News to everyone, especially the poor and dispossessed. He proclaimed free for everyone bound and imprisoned by all opposition to love, bringing sight to those blind in every way, to cut through the chains that bind us to

compassion, inclusion, peace, justice, faithfulness, gentleness, joy, goodness, kindness and love. We proclaim that God is working in us, through us and in spite of us, whenever and wherever people manifest the Spirit's presence spreading the Good News by words and actions. In God's name we become instruments of grace, mercy and liberation to everyone, everywhere until the kin-dom of God is completely fulfilled and peace reigns forever. God is moving the creation toward the time when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We are grateful to God for choosing us to witness to and participate in the Becoming!

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 709 – "God, We Honor You"

God, we honor you.
God, we trust in you.
God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring,
offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: "Hope Waits for Us at Advent", v. 1-3

Hope waits for us at Advent. Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment to a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world that heals the ones in pain,
Hope is born in us again.

Peace waits for us at Advent. Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.

In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world of gentleness and play,
Peace is born in us each day.

Joy waits for us at Advent. Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement at the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world where wonder is restored,
Joy is born in us once more.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness", refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.



December 13, 2020

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I Always Cry at Christmas

Richard Page & Walter Afanasieff

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