

**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude *How Great Our joy* arr. Tornquist
 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing arr. Thompson
 Fairview EPC Bell Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! Call to Worship

Hob Pusey

The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple;
the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.

Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!

**Our King is coming; the righteous Savior,
who shall speak peace to the nations.**

Let us worship the Triune God. Amen.

! Invocation

Hob Pusey

God of all hope and joy,
open our hearts in welcome,
that your Son, Jesus Christ, at his coming
may find in us a dwelling prepared for him,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. **Amen.**

! Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader: We come from a world of darkness.

All: Into Christ's world of light.

Leader: We come from a world of weariness.

All: Into God's strength and hope.

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

**All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken
our souls and watch for the coming of Christ!**

Hob Pusey

Hymn of Praise 125

*Joy to the World
Fairview EPC Bell Choir*

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let eve'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse if found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

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**Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him**

Prayer of Confession

Hob Pusey

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.
Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free.
He releases us from our fears and sins
and helps us find our rest in him.
Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death.
Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation,
and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom.
And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:
**Come now, long-expected Jesus,
come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.**

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

Offering
**Please place your offerings in the plate in the back
of the church on your way out.*

Offertory *Joy Has Dawned*
Linda Gyrath, Sandy Dulaney

! Doxology
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

! Prayer of Dedication
Gracious God, you have shown your great love for your

Children by using commonplace things for your purpose—
water to mark your children, bread and wine to feed and
nourish us ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a
manger to announce your grace. Take these commonplace
things, these gifts of paper and metal and the lives that
stand behind them. Bless and use them to proclaim your
gracious love, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, the
Lamb of God. **Amen.**

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Hymn of Response *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

*Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The Herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King."*

New Testament Reading *Matthew 13:44-46*

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Sermon *"The Promise of Joy"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God's Word

Prayer of Consecration

! Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

People: We believe that God fulfilled the promise that He made to the early fathers, by the mouth of His holy prophets, when He sent His only and eternal Son into the world. The Son took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin. He not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned, but also a real human soul, in order that He might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, He had to assume them both to save them both together. He is truly our Immanuel - God with Us.

Prayers of the People

Leader: *Maranatha*

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come!*

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 145

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Organ Postlude**

Rejoice and Be Merry

Kendall