

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021**

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

**Prelude**

*The First Noel  
Love Came Down at Christmas*

*Glyncannon  
Price*

**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.**



**Invocation**

*Hob Pusey*

Faithful God, we wait for you to come.  
We know that you will  
because you already have  
and because you promised to return.  
While we wait, send your Spirit  
so that we may grow in grace.  
Prepare us for your coming, Lord. **Amen.**



**Hymn 124  
125**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (Vs. 1 & 2) and,  
Joy to the World (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** (*Responsively*)

*The Terry Family*

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of**

**God's kingdom:**

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears  
into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

*—from Isaiah 2:4, NRSV*

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

*—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
—Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**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*

As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah,  
we long for the day when death will be swallowed up  
and every tear will be wiped away.  
As we wait expectantly  
for Christ's promised return,  
we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**! O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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!

## Offering

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

**Invitation** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

### **Offering**

**Offertory** *Joy to the World* *Watts*  
*Pamela Johnson*

### **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**

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world.  
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.  
You give us hope for a future  
free of pain, sorrow, and tears.  
You promise us a future with you.  
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.  
May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see  
the goodness of knowing you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Hymn 118**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

## Proclaiming

*God speaks to us through His Word*

**Children's Sermon** *Joy of Christmas* *Dan Baker*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Reading** *Matthew 25:31-46*

**25**<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my

Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## Sermon

"The Sheep and the Goats"  
*Rev. Tim Latham*

## Responding *We respond to God's Word*



Hymn 241

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*



Profession of Faith

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
**He was in the beginning with God.**  
All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
**What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**  
The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness did not overcome it.**  
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.**  
He came to what was his own,  
**and his own people did not accept him.**  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God,  
**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh  
or of the will of man, but of God.**  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.**  
—John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

**Prayers of the People**


**Commissioning**

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **Hymn 137** *What Child is This?*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's prayer partners are  
Linda Gyath & Jim Fox*

 **Postlude** *Christmas Postlude on "In Dulci Jubilo"* *Martin*