



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come— this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

People: *And we are filled with joy!*

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

People: *Our tears into songs of joy!*

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

People: *And remain in us forever.*

—based on Psalm 126

Lighting of the Advent Candles

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

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40.3)

The Lord will give you a sign.

A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.
“And they shall name him Immanuel,
which means “God is with us.” (Isaiah 7.14; Matthew 1.23)

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

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

Opening Hymn | Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley (1744), music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1855)

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories, knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

All Singing: *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: *The Name of the Lord be praised!*

Hymn of Worship | Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Words by George Weissel (1642), Music: TRURO, from Psalmodia Evangelica (1789)

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!*

*A helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, kindness in distress.*

*O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*So come, my Lord, and enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,*

Until thy glorious victory's won.

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Lord, we have not kept watch for you.*

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

Help us to wait to know your will.

Help us to look out for the needs of others.

Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: The good news of this Advent season

is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God,

who comes among us,

setting us free to love and serve.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

New Testament Reading | 2 Peter 3.8-15a

[8] But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

[11] Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, [12] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13] But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

[14] Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. [15] And count the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hymn of Worship | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Words by William Williams, 1745, and Jeremy Casella, 2002; music by Jeremy Casella, 2002

*Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more; bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar, lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield. Strong Deliverer,
be Thou still my Strength and Shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee; songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.*

Psalm | Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

Leader: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

People: *You restored the fortunes of Jacob.*

Leader: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

People: *You covered all their sin.*

Leader: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: *For he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;*

Leader: But let them not turn back to folly.

People: *Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,*

Leader: That glory may dwell in our land.

People: *Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;*

Leader: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

People: *Faithfulness springs up from the ground,*

Leader: And righteousness looks down from the sky.

People: *Yes, the LORD will give what is good,*

Leader: And our land will yield its increase.

People: *Righteousness will go before him*

Leader: And make his footsteps a way.

Ministry of the Word | Showing Steadfast Love to Thousands

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Exodus 20.1-21

[1] And God spoke all these words, saying, [2] "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

[3] "You shall have no other gods before me.

[4] "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. [5] You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

[7] "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

[8] "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. [11] For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

[12] "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

[13] "You shall not murder.

[14] "You shall not commit adultery.

[15] "You shall not steal.

[16] "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

[17] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

[18] Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off [19] and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

[20] Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." [21] The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of God.
Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.
Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

—*Our Song of Hope, st. 3, closing prayer*

Prayers of the People, Concluded with the Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Holy Communion

(For those watching at home, I encourage you to take this time to watch and pray with us. Remember this all along: Jesus is not more present with us who are gathered than he is with you at home! The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of his blessing to us, and a great gift, but it does not mean you are missing out on his presence or his blessing. We all participate by faith in Christ whether physically receiving the Supper or not.)

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Leader: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

Leader: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Leader: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Feast

Communion Hymn | We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken, 2015

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more!*

*We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.*

*In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.*

*Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | Joy to the World

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719, Music by Lowell Mason, 1848

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven 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 is 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!*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you.
And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

People: *Amen!*

CCLI # 11299454

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship:

We will be having our annual candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm at OneRealtor Center. This is a great time to gather as God's people and reflect upon his great grace to us!

Small Group Meetings:

Small groups are an important part of our ministry at Redeemer. They offer opportunities to deepen relationships and to love, serve, and pray for one another and our city. If you are interested in joining a group, please email Ben Wheeler: ben@redeemertyler.com.

Monthly Youth Meeting:

All junior high and high school students are invited to join us on the third Sunday of the month for a time of fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study.

Bible and Book Studies:

- Men's study meets over breakfast, 7:00 am on Fridays. They are studying the gospel of Luke. Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972).
- The women's group is studying the gospel of Matthew on Friday mornings. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: global and local missions

- Monday
Richey and Keli Goodrich (India): for Richey's preaching and teaching;
for gospel awakening to occur among the 10 million unreached Ansari people of India.
- Tuesday
Robert and Debbie Hale: translation work in French-speaking Africa.

- Wednesday
Nate Hill, John Tyler High School Young Life; Mentoring Alliance (includes The Gospel Village, Rose City Summer Camps, and The Boys and Girls Club).
- Thursday
Rev. Robbie Mills, Pastor of New City Fellowship, a church working among immigrants in East Dallas. Rev. Jahaziel Cantu, Pastor of El Buen Pastor, a Hispanic church plant in Richardson. Rev. Caleb Dunn with Cristo Rey PCA, a Hispanic church in Dallas.
- Friday
Promise Academy's financial and prayer support; Highway 80 Rescue Mission and their work to build a residential facility here in Tyler; PATH, Crisis Pregnancy Center, other ministries in town.
- Saturday
Pray that unity will grow among the churches in our city so we may care for people, evangelize, and make disciples.