

# *Order of Worship*

December 22nd, 2019

“How will God deliver from arrogance, war, oppression, and coercion? Surely the book of Isaiah indicates frequently that God was powerful enough to destroy his enemies in an instant, yet again and again, when the prophet comes to the heart of the means of deliverance, a childlike face peers out at us.”

John Oswalt

“In this season of Advent, I’m glad, once again to affirm that there’s only one government and one peace sufficient to meet the needs of my sinful heart and the issues in this broken world. You are the King of which David, at his best, was just a hint and hope. Having conquered death and the devil, you now reign from a throne of grace—advancing your kingdom of peace, justice, and righteousness in the hearts of your people, among the nations of the world, and in every sphere of your creation.”

Scotty Smith, “An Advent Prayer in Praise of the Kingship of Jesus”

“There, peeping among the cloud-wrack above a dark peak high up in the mountains, Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach.”

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

## GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Francis and Bonnie Smith  
Isaiah 9:1-3, 6-7*

*King of Kings*

*The Solid Rock*

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

O Promised Christ,  
our lives are filled with sin.  
We overlook our neighbor’s needs  
and do not love you above all else.  
Our rescue depends on your coming.  
We are a world divided by conflict.

Our peace depends on your coming.  
We are a guilty people.  
Our pardon depends on your coming.  
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;  
our only hope of doing your will  
is that you should come and empower us to do it.  
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,  
our world waits  
for your rescue,  
for your peace,  
for your pardon,  
for your power,  
and for your grace.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

### Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins . . .  
you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 and Matthew 1:21

### *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

\*Children ages 3-5 years are dismissed to their worship class.\*

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Blair Whitworth

Offering and Doxology

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Adult Choir*

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

*All: And also with you.*

Life Together

David Speakman

### ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

“The Reign of the King”

Davis Mooney

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:1-5

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

### Sermon Notes

*\*Children return to join their families\**

#### FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*

Leader: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

#### Lord's Supper Instructions

- The Lord's Supper is open to anyone who is trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection alone for his or her redemption.
- People come forward from the back rows first to receive the elements.
- White grape juice in cups and gluten free crackers are available at the left and right stations.
- At the middle station, you may receive from the common loaf and cup. We follow the practice of intinction where you dip the bread in the wine.
- If you need prayer, there is a group (including elders) available to pray for anyone in need of prayer in the kitchen. There is also a group of women in the room next to the Connections kiosk who can pray for women. The Lord's Supper is available in both prayer rooms.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they

have met with and been approved by the Session.

**Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin**

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

**Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth**

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

**Prayer of Belief**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted (Look to Jesus)*

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

**Benediction**

“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26