

# Order of Service: The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

**Prelude** *Still, Still, Still*

Salzburg Melody, 1819 arr. Joseph M. Martin  
Dr. Gukhui Han, piano

**Advent Service of Light**

Led by the Prince-Hum-Gray Household

*Source: based on Advent Wreath Lighting Ritual TEC Preparing to Become Beloved Community*

*Family prays together*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to our human race.

*Reader 1* Sacred Mystery, we light the first candle of Advent in the midst of fear with the expectation that you will come among us.

*One candle is lit.*

*Reader 2* We kindle this candle with expectation. We long for you to come into our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

**Hymn** *O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1)*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*  
Malek Sammour, Soloist

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!

*People* Sacred Mystery, open our eyes to all that prevents us from noticing you in our midst. Break through the fear and distraction that keep us from you. Awaken our hearts to your presence being born among us. We ask for your mercy and grace that we might see your image in one another and in our world. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

**Hymn** *Signs of endings all around us*  
(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)

Ton-y-Botel



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days  
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?  
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.  
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?  
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.  
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:  
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.  
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.  
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

**Collect of the Day** (*people muted*)

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the shadows of the world, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading** *Isaiah 64:1-9 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7,16-18**

Wayne L. Wold  
Malek Sammour, Soloist

**REFRAIN**

Re - store us, O God of hosts; let your face  
shine up - on us, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

**REFRAIN**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**REFRAIN**

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**REFRAIN**

**The Gospel** *Mark 13:24-37 (people muted)*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Anthem** *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth (From Messiah)*

G. F. Handel  
Malek Sammour, Soloist

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
And gross darkness the people:

But the Lord shall arise upon thee,  
And His glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,  
And kings to the brightest of thy rising.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death  
Upon them hath the light shined.

**The Sermon** *(people muted)*

The Rev. Jane Gould

*Silence follows the sermon.*

**Music** *Divinum mysterium*

Plainsong, Mode V, 13<sup>TH</sup> century, arr. Raymond H. Haan  
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Anthem** *My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)*

Irish Melody arr. Mark Hayes

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest,  
Could the world be about to turn?

### *Chorus*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the  
past To the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for your yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to  
flight, For the world is about to turn.

### *Chorus*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
Not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
For the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn.

### *Chorus*

Through the nation rage from age to age,  
We remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
From conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard  
Is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
Who is turning the world around.

### *Chorus*

## **The Prayers of the People – Advent**

*The Leaders and People pray responsively.*

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we hold in prayer?

*The People offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in silence.*

*Celebrant* O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*People* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Video – I am present

Work of the People

*Presider* Always, Advent is a season of waiting—waiting for Christmas, waiting for Christ to be born in us, waiting for Christ to come again in glory. But this year, in the midst of so much and so many waiting for healing, reconciliation, and return... in this dim season when we wait to gather to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion, may we remember that you, God, are with us in the waiting. And so, let us pray together our Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

## Prayer for Spiritual Communion *(Please unmute yourself to pray together.)*

*Taken from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ, “The Mass on the World”*

**“Since once again, Lord... I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself; I will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labors and sufferings of the world... This bread, our toil, is of itself, but an immense fragmentation; this wine, our pain, is no more than a drought that dissolves. Yet, in the very depths of this formless mass you have implanted... a desire, irresistible, hallowing, which makes us cry out, believer and unbeliever alike: ‘Lord, make us one.’” Amen.**

## Anthem *Rain down justice*

David Ogden

### *Chorus*

Rain down justice from above, you heavens,  
Clouds burst open, let the holy one appear.  
Earth give birth and show the world a Saviour:  
God has spoken the Holy one is near.

Gathering as travelers and pilgrims,  
With our faces turned to the brightness of the  
sun. Listening to the words of the promise:  
He will come, he will surely come.

### *Chorus*

Gathering with prophets and teachers,  
With their vision piercing the watches of the  
night, Calling out the words of the promise:  
He will come, he will surely come.

### *Chorus*

Gathering with John the Baptist,  
In the wilderness, seeking out the Lamb of God.  
Echoing the words of the promise:  
He will come, he will surely come.

### *Chorus*

Gathering with Mary and Joseph,  
With their empty hands and their hearts on fire  
with love. Pondering the words of the promise:  
He will come, he will surely come.

### *Chorus*

**Lord's Prayer** (*people unmuted*)

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
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.**

**Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**The Blessing**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant*     The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**

**Postlude** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Traditional Spiritual arr. Mary McDonald  
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano