

ADVENT 1 SUNDAY

November 29, 2020

Organ Prelude: Wake! Awake for night is flying

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Keep alert, keep awake, Christ is coming. Christ is coming not only as a babe, but also “with great power and glory.” (Mark 13)

Christ is coming not only to be born anew, but to meet us in our dread and isolation facing a bitter pandemic...

Christ is coming to meet us at Christmas. How do we prepare to welcome him during this Advent season? How do we prepare to let in his light into the darkness of our time? How do we find the glory of his hope for ourselves?

ALL: O ground of our being, we are here to worship you this hour to prepare for your coming to us through a child and through the light and hope of your glory. Grant us vision and a heart to take it in.

Lighting of the first Advent Candle – the candle of hope

**(Hymn 119, v.1) Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Hymn: “Oh Come, oh come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)

No. 122

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

2. Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!

**Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!

**Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring,
come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,

O Israel.

7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease,
and be thyself our source of peace.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,

O Israel.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: Recitative & air "Comfort ye" & "Ev'ry Valley" from Messiah by G. F. Handel

Soloist Elias Theocharidis, and pianist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Mark 13:1-8, Mark 13:24-37

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' ²Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

- You will suffer persecution for what you believe and what you stand for... even family members will betray one another...
- When you see what's happening to the temple and the destruction that's happening, run to the hills, for it's just the beginning of what will come...
- There will be many claims of false messiahs and many claims to final answers and solutions... don't be fooled or sidelined...

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ '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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

BEING PREPARED FOR WHAT'S COMING

Dr. Harris

Special Music: Come thou, dear Redeemer

Cesar Franck

soloist Radostina Borisova, and pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

No. 115

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2. He brings salvation speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
he saves the poor and needy,
and helps the weak be strong;
they sing who once were sighing,
their darkness turned to light,
for they, who once were dying,
are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

4. All powers shall bow before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing,
for he shall have dominion
o'er river, sea and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion
or dove's light wing can soar.

5. O'er every foe victorious,
Christ on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever:
that name to us is Love.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Come, thou long expected Jesus

arr. by Bruce Nasmith

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