

Advent 1 / Holy Communion Sunday

December 1, 2024

Organ prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme

J.S. Bach

***ProceSSIONal Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Alternate words by Rev. Dr. Richard Bott and Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
into this world of brokenness to dwell;
with hope, with peace, with joy, with love,
save us from all we fall short of.

REFRAIN:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,

O people of God's world!

O come, thou, God made flesh, come near,
all people by your advent, here;
in front of all our plagues to stand,
that we might reach out, offering our hand.

REFRAIN

O come, thou saviour come to free,
creation from adversity;
From evil's power thy people save,
And give us victory o'er the grave.

REFRAIN

Where racism, greed, or hatred, are our blight,

shine justice's healing light;
that equity, peace, healing would grow,
as on your way of love we go.

REFRAIN

O come, our God, with your transforming love,
To turn our fears into new life this hour.
that, through your grace's healing we rise,
to face the challenges of our times and lives.

REFRAIN

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Advent is here. It is a time of preparation, preparation for the coming of Christ.

Christ is coming, but how will we recognize him?

Christ comes in every breathe of new life and every opportunity to serve love and justice.

Christ also comes, hidden and revealed in every crisis of life, crisis in our personal lives or crisis in our collective lives. Christ summons us to serve his love and justice especially in times of crisis.

But will we have enough faith and hope in the power of his love to rise up and bless the world because of what he can make possible in and through us in times of crisis?

May this time of worship light the candle of hope in us as we anticipate the coming of Christ, a candle that will become a flame.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Lighting of the first Advent Candle (The Candle of Hope)

***Hymn: Hope is a Star (vs. 1)**

No. 119

**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: People in darkness**

No. 124

(children are invited to leave for programming during the hymn)

People in darkness are looking for light.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with blindness are longing for sight.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of love.

People with sickness are praying for health.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People in poverty want to have wealth.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of hope.

People in trouble would like to be free.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with arguments want to agree.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of peace.

People in sadness are trying to sing.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of joy.

Prayer of Approach & Confession

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Special Music: Whispering hope
Soft as the voice of an angel
Breathing a lesson unheard
Hope with a gentle persuasion
Whispers a comforting word

Alice Hawthorne; arr. B. Nasmith

Wait, till the darkness is over
Wait, till the tempest is done
Hope, for the sunshine tomorrow
After the darkness is gone

Whispering hope (whispering hope, whispering hope)
Oh how welcome Thy voice (oh how welcome Thy voice)
Making my heart (making my heart, making my heart)
In its sorrow rejoice

If in the dusk of the twilight
Dimmed be the region afar
Will not the deepening darkness
Brighten the glittering star?

Then, when the night is upon us
Why should the heart sink away?
When the dark midnight is over
Watch for the breaking of day

Whispering hope (whispering hope, whispering hope)
Oh how welcome Thy voice (oh how welcome Thy voice)
Making my heart (making my heart, making my heart)
In its sorrow rejoice

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Luke 21: 25-36

Sharon Fischer

INTRO: our first reading is from the Prophet Jeremiah, chapter 33, verses 14-16. In times of crisis and suffering, you can either give up and hide in a cave, or you can rise up in search of faith and hope. Prophets like Jeremiah speak truth. Things are bad. But they also prophecy of a new day and a new way under the leadership of a new leader, a leader like the great king David of old, a leader who will usher in a new era of freedom and justice. Listen:

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' Amen.

INTRO: Our second reading is from the gospel of Luke, chapter 21, verses 25-36. In all the gospel accounts, Jesus speaks apocalyptic words. "Apocalyptic" uses end of the world language to point to an impending crisis. When we go through a personal crisis in lives or are caught up in some disaster, it can feel like the end of the world. Jesus uses this language to point to troubling events that will take place for all those living in and around Jerusalem. But he also points to the need for faith and hope in what he can make possible for those who stand with him in love and for justice. Listen:

Luke 21. 25-36

25 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of humanity coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

34 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Humanity.' Amen.

We are listening, O God; **Speak to us!**

Sermon: CRISIS & NEW LIFE
(Silent Mediation)

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

Solo: Come thou dear Lord Jesus

César Franck

Soloist Mila Ionkova

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Creed:

**We Believe in God above us,
Maker and sustainer of all that lives,
Of sun, moon and stars,
Of water, air, and earth,
Of male and female,
All genders, colours and cultures.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor.
He was tortured and nailed to a cross.
He bore the suffering of others, but died himself forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
And his reign will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
The Holy Spirit of transforming flame,
Life-Giving breath of the church,
Energy of healing, justice and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again. Hallelujah!**

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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of Elements

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you, O God, for feeding us in this meal and for refreshing our spirits with faith and hope in what the power of your love can do in and through us. Meet us in our difficult times, our times of crisis, and lead us into new life. Through Christ in us and the light he shines in us we pray; Amen.

***Hymn: Lo! Christ comes with clouds**

No. 120

1. Lo! Christ comes with clouds descending,
Lamb of God for sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the Lord's triumphant train.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold thee
robed in awe and majesty;
we, who scorned and mocked and sold thee,

pierced and nailed thee to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Now redemption, long awaited,
see in glorious life appear!
All God's creatures freed from groaning,
sounds of liberation hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear.

4. Evermore let all adore thee,
high on time eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before thee:
thou shalt reign and thou alone.
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus!
Claim all glory for thine own.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ Postlude: Chorale "Wake, awake for night is flying" J.S. Bach

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

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**We invite you to join us for coffee hour and some light refreshments in
our adjacent hall after the service.**

All are welcome!

~

Coming Events

Sunday, December 1

Advent 1 / Holy Communion
Congregation Meeting to discuss and approve "sound dampening" project for our hall (Scott Duncan Hall)

Wednesday, December 4

How can the real Christmas story in the Bible inspire how you can celebrate Christmas this year?, 7:30pm in person and online

Thursday, December 5

AHPC hosts Christmas dinner at Evangel Hall, 5-7pm

Sunday, December 8

Advent 2 Sunday
Presentation after worship by special guest: Steve Teekens, executive director of Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) on: homelessness, healing and reconciliation (in person and online)

Friday, December 13

Armour Heights Choir Christmas Concert, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 15

Advent 3
Special Presentation after worship by "The 519" Support program for LGBTQI+ refugees

Tuesday, December 17

Solace Service and Anointing for Healing, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 21

Pageant Rehearsal, 10am-12pm

Sunday, December 22

Advent 4 / Pageant Sunday

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve All Ages Early Service, 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30pm



Armour Heights Presbyterian Church

105 Wilson Avenue, Toronto M5M 2Z9
Church: (416) 485-4000, estone@armourheights.org
Website: www.armourheights.org
"Discover the vitality of faith"