



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

GATHERING

Advent Hymn

~Christy Nockels

INTRO

VERSE 1

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the
ev - er - last - ing light; Son of right - eous - ness a - rise and tri - umph o'er these chains of

VERSE 2

mine. 2. Come, thou long a - wait - ed One, in the full - ness of Your
love. And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will nev - er by the same. So, here I

CHORUS §

wait in hope of You. All my soul's long - ing through and through. And Day - spring

2nd time to Coda †

from on high be near, and Day - star in my heart ap - pear. 3. Dark and

VERSE 3

cheer - less is the morn, un - til Your love in me is born. And joy - less is the eve - ning

song, un - til Em - man - u - el has come. So, here I've

Coda †

in my heart ap - pear. So, here I

continued...

CHORUS



wait in hope of You. All my soul's long - ing through and through. And Day - spring



from on high be near, and Day - star in my heart ap - pear. —

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

by Mary Lu Walker, edited by Pastor David R. Keck, Sr

Advent 3:

Light the Advent Candle three;

Think of John's apology:

"I'm unworthy! Christ is higher!

He'll baptize with Spirit's fire!" (Refrain)

Refrain:

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christ's own light.

READING Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

L A reading from the fourth chapter of Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Sung)

C Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

P The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you—eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

Refrain

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

P The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you—drink and remember He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

Refrain

C And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth. As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again! And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C 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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG *ELW 487*

What Feast of Love

GREENSLEEVES



- 1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
- 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
- 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C Amen.

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is
called Em - man - u - el: God with us, re - vealed in
us! His name is called Em - man - u - el.

GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF DAY

A Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

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COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS Charles Wesley, Jacob Sooter, Meredith Andrews, Rowland Hugh Prichard CCLI Song# 7096082 © 2017 Curb Songs (admin. By Curb Music Publishing)

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GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C **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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

continued...

He 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.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "Lord, in your mercy,"
The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."*

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Meredith Andrews

INTRO

Oh oh oh, oh oh oh.

VERSE 1 & 2

1. Come, Thou long ex -
2. Born Thy peo - ple

7
pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.
to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a King.

13
From our fears and sins re - lease us. Let us find our
Born to reign in us for - ev - er. Now Thy gra - cious

19
rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it,

25

 hope of all the earth Thou art. Dear de - sire of
 rule in all our hearts a - lone. By Thine all suf -

31

 ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious

 heart.
 throne.

43 **BRIDGE**

 You draw the hearts of shep - herds, You draw the hearts of kings.

49

 E - ven as a ba - by, You were chang - ing ev - 'ry - thing. You called me to Your king -

54

 dom be - fore Your lips could speak, and e - ven as a ba - by, You were reach -

59

 ing out for me. And now we are a - wait - ing the day of Your re - turn

64

 when ev - 'ry eye will see You as heav - en comes to earth. Un - til

69

 the sky is o - pened, un - til the trum - pet sounds, the bride is get - ting read -

74 **VERSE 3**

 y, the Church is sing - ing out. 3. Come, Thou long ex -

79

 pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free.

85

 From our fears and sins re - lease us. Let us find our

91

 rest in Thee. Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed King.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.