

Sunday Morning Worship
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
November 28, 2021

Gathering Music “Piano Sonata op. 10, no. 1, mvt. 2” by L. van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

This slow, lyrical, meditative movement has something of the grand melodic sweep of the slow movement of Beethoven’s “Pathetique” sonata, which is especially notorious from Linus’ rendering of it in “Peanuts” cartoons. However, this one is not so well-known.

Welcome and Announcements

Remembering Our Baptism

Prelude Verset No. 1 on “Creator of the Stars of Night” by J. Titelouze
(1562-1633)

“Creator of the Stars...” is a medieval Advent hymn long thought to have been written and composed by Saint Ambrose, but now known not to have been. Titelouze was a Norman French priest, organist, and composer whose music represented great forward strides for the art form, although today’s audiences sometimes find his music more meditative than exciting.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Jim and Mary Mattis

On this first Sunday of Advent, we come to the Advent wreath to light the first candle, the candle of hope. *(The candle is lit)*

Let us ponder hope...

Hope is optimistic, trusting, sustenance for the soul.

Hope is anticipating an event.

Hope is necessary for humans to survive, just like air and water and food.

Hope is a sprig of leaf in the beak of the dove returning to the Ark.

Hope is the result of trusting and believing that God is active and present in how we anticipate and experience our present and future conditions and outcomes.

Hope is never giving up, optimism, a pathway or promise of light as one searches for understanding or answers in life.

Advent Prayer

Let us pray...

Most Holy God, we live in a world that is overwhelming at times.

Hopelessness exists all around us and sometimes within us.

Help us, Holy Mystery, as we enter into this holy season

to be reminded that there is reason to hope,

as we hope in a God for whom all things are possible..

Inspire us to be beacons of hope and agents of change in your world.

In the name of Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel we pray. Amen.

**Response 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come" (verse 1)*

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Judy Long

Let us turn to God and confess our need for God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

Light of the world, your patience with us is never ending.

You have shown us wonders,

yet we are so often complacent.

You have showered us with mercy,

yet we withhold mercy from others.

You have given us everything,

and we act as though we were entitled all along.

Forgive us these and for those mistakes, faults

and failures that weigh heavily upon us.

Some of which we name before you in silent confession.**

Time of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

As the world darkens, the light of Christ shines even brighter.

Receive the forgiveness of sin and walk in the light of Christ.

May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God's mercy,

and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you,

And also with you.

**Hymn # 94 "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"*

Prayer for Illumination

**Light of the world, open our hearts and minds
by the power of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear Your Word and take it to heart with joy. Amen.**

Hebrew Scripture Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

(liturgist)

Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36

(pastor)

Sermon “now...and not yet”

**Hymn # 123 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

Prayers of Thanksgiving + Concern shared by the congregation.

Lord of love,

Hear our prayer.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

*Offertory/Special Music “Savior of the Nations, Come” by D. Buxtehude
(1637-1707)*

“Savior of the Nations, Come!

Virgin’s Son, make here your home.

Wonder at it, heaven and earth,

That the Lord chose such a birth.”

St. Ambrose/ Martin Luther/ Wm. Reynolds

(translation upon translation)

Offering Prayer

Heavenly God, as the world around us urges us to ponder, seek, and purchase the “perfect gift,” we present these gifts to you in thanksgiving for your perfect offering to us: your son Jesus Christ. Keep us alert to his presence around us, and present to the needs of others during this season and beyond. In his loving name we pray. Amen.**

**Sung Christmas Doxology*

(tune: O Tannenbaum)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

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Charge and Benediction

Postlude “Savior of the Nations, Come” by J.P. Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Sweelinck’s reputation earned him frequent comparisons to the Greek poet and musician hero of ancient times, and he was thus called “the Orpheus of Amsterdam.” The church where he played, Amsterdam’s largest, was long deconsecrated, but is now being repaired.

*Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.

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**Prayers and Litanies by Rev. Wendy Sherer and R. M. Fergus for *RCL Worship Resources* Copyright © 2021 Clergy Stuff™ Published by Clergy Stuff, Hopkins, MN, Used by Permission.

Thank you to those who lent their creative talents to our Advent Candle Lighting Litany: Linda Otos, Glen Brivic, Rose Ada Combs, Mary Jackson, Christopher Wicks, Jean Wilson, Mimi Chitty, Jim Long, Gwen Luhta, and Judi Monson.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

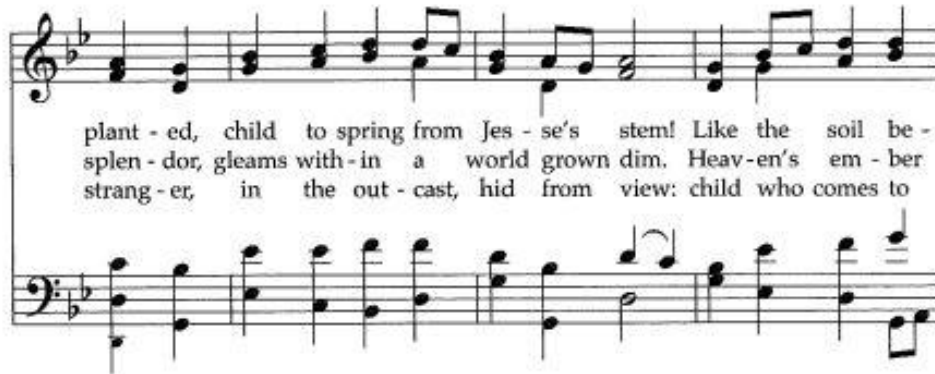
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

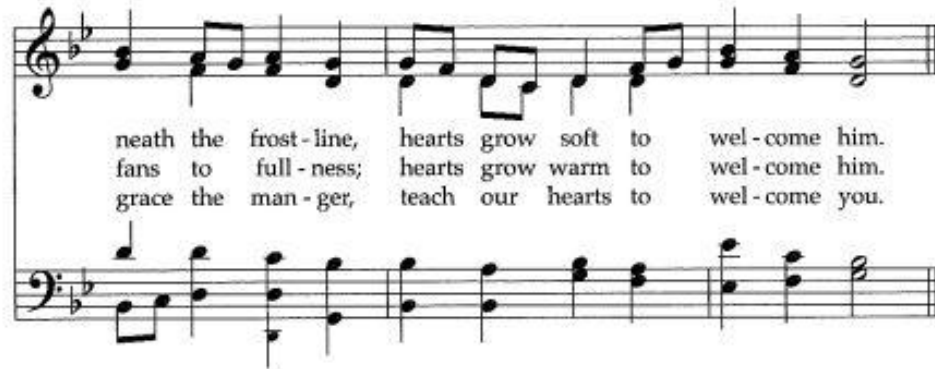
to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world:
 be-neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid-ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music concludes with a double bar line.