

Christ Congregational Church

Upholding the evangelical and congregational tradition of the Reformed Faith since A.D. 2010



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 4, A.D. 2022

Call to Worship

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

Organ Prelude

Oh, Come, Emmanuel — arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

✝ All shall stand for the acclamation and processional hymn.

Minister: The night is far spent, and the day is at hand.

Answer: **Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.**

Processional Hymn 72

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1-3, 5, 7)

✝ The people shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn.

Advent Wreath Prayers

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Choir: *Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory forever!*

Lector: Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth

Answer: **as a burning and shining light.**

Lector: May we your servants rejoice in his light,

Answer: **and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of your coming Kingdom.**

✝ The second Advent Candle is lit.

Choir: *Jesus our Savior and King of the ages. Blessed be God forever.*

✠ Then shall the Lector shall read the first lesson.

Hear the first lesson, written in the book of the prophet, *Isaiah*, chapter 11, verses 1-9.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ The people shall stand for the hymn, the Gospel lesson and the *Gloria Patri*.

Hymn 84

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hear the Gospel lesson, written in the *Gospel According to St. Matthew*, chapter 3, verses 1-12.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Lector. The Gospel of the Lord.

Answer. **Praise be to Christ.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

† The people shall sit for the Anthem, the Third Lesson and the Sermon following.

Anthem

On Jordan's Bank — arr. Malcolm Archer, (b. 1952)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings! Then cleansed be every Christian breast, and furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our heart prepare for Christ to come and enter there. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay. All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free, whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost forevermore. (*Charles Coffin, 1676-1749*).

Hear the third lesson, written in the *First Epistle of St. John*, chapter 3, v. 23 and chapter 5, v. 20.

And this is (God's) commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. . . . And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Anointed Branch

† The people shall stand at the conclusion of the sermon; then shall the Lector lead *The Nicene Creed*.

Let us confess the Holy Faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† All shall remain standing for the singing of the *Doxology*.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ The people shall sit at the conclusion of the *Doxology*.

✠ Then shall the *Prayers of the People* be offered, each petition ending with:

Intercessor: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever,

Answer: **Amen.**

✠ Then shall the people stand for the recessional hymn and closing prayer.

Recessional Hymn 78

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore.

Answer: **Amen.**

Organ Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come — arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)



WORSHIP LEADERS The Reverend Randall K. Green, *minister*; Mr. M. Todd Stracener, *lector*;
Christ Church Chorale; Mr. David C. Lawson, *organist*; Mason Eppley, *acolyte*.

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