



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021

-- Psalm 42.1-2, 5-6a

“Come Now, O God of Hope...”



Cantor: 1. O - so - sȯ o - so - sȯ, pyong - hwa - ui̇ - im - guṁ,
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sȯ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.

Responsive Prayer for Advent 1

It doesn't matter whether or not you can have faith; whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.

We are entering the time of Advent, not yet Christmas, but beginning to prepare for it. It's hard not to rush to the “joy of the season” right past the shout of the Baptist, the lament of the Prophets, the cries of the broken and the needy...to hurry our preparation for Christmas.

Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need to prepare for that...not just parties and carols and shopping.

We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born. Where hope can take root!

We travel again to that tiny corner of a harsh and dark world, ruled by empire, dominated by fear...much like today.

We travel seeking the light of divine Hope. Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come, that Christ always comes to welcoming hearts and teachable spirits! Amen.

Scripture Lesson

From the Hebrew Prophets: Jeremiah 29.10-14

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Gathering Together in Prayer **Silent Prayer—Pastoral Prayer**

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, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Advent begins on the heels of Thanksgiving, the season of gratitude, and leads us to the season of the greatest gifts--not those under the tree, but divine gifts: faith, hope, and love--and all incarnate in Christ. To praise him, serve him, honor him, and advance his Way, we now bring our gifts this day!

Offertory

“Joy of Longing Hearts” (Mary McDonald)

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Come thou Savior of the world; come, we pray. Cast our sin and enter in.
Born thy people to deliver, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne!
Come Lord Jesus, we pray.

Scripture Lesson From the Gospels: Luke 21.25-36 (The Message)

“It will seem like all hell has broken loose—sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking.

And then—then!—they’ll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style—a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!

He told them a story. “Look at a fig tree. Any tree for that matter. When the leaves begin to show, one look tells you that summer is right around the corner. The same here—when you see these things happen, you know God’s kingdom is about here. Don’t brush this off: I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

But be on your guard. Don’t let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it’s going to come on everyone, everywhere, at once. So, whatever you do, don’t fall asleep at the wheel. Pray constantly that you will have the strength and wits to make it through everything that’s coming and end up on your feet before the Son of Man.

Sermon You Want *WHAT?*...Hope? Pastor Barry Bordenkircher
That's When God's *FUTURE* Reaches Into Our *NOW*

***Closing Hymn** “*Come, Long-Expected Jesus*” (*Hyfrydol*)
(see last page)

***Responsive Benediction**

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (*Hebrews 10.23*) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15.13*)

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in God's word I put my hope! (*Psalms 130.5*)

Postlude “Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling” (J.G.Walther)

Worship Notes

The “Call to Worship” is adapted from Fr. Richard Rohr’s *Daily Meditations*, from The Center for Action & Contemplation (5/1/9/19, “Implanted Hope,” cac.org/implanted-hope-2019-05-19).

The Offertory “Dedication” is adapted from *Upside-Down Kingdom*, posted on Third Space. (third-space.org.uk/).

The Communion “Invitation,” *Psalms for an Emerging Emmanuel*, is from Edward Hays, *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual* (p. 180), adapted.

The “Closing Hymn,” *There is a Mighty Question*, was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; music by A. H. Mann. Used with permission from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Worship Today*

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.