



Seventh & James Baptist Church
December 3, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday of Advent

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Advent”

Everett Titcomb

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“Lo, How a Rose”

(ES IST EIN ROS)

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Processional Hymn, No. 83

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Litany of Hope

Matt Rosencrans

One: We read these aspirational passages; visions told by prophets old and we cannot help but wonder...how long?

Many: Lord, give us hope beyond the present and urgency for today.

One: It seems the scourge of violence has always been part and parcel of this all too human condition. We curse with Cain and forget we are able to rise above what would divide us and see our common hearts united in God’s grace and love.

Many: Break open our patterns of thought and blow your Spirit of peace through this gathering of potential peace-makers.

One: Make it today...let it begin now even as it flows to us from ages past and pushes us toward hope for years to come.

Many: We open our hearts and our hands in anticipation of receiving from you... O Come, O Come Emmanuel....

Prayer of Hope

Matt Rosencrans

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Donna and Jim Kennedy

Some days, hope comes easily: staring into the face of an infant when she smiles; seeing two people who have been married for decades hold hands as they shuffle along; and other days hope feels impossible to find: when the violence on the news overwhelms; or when the bills and collection calls are as unceasing as the dusk. But hope is always intentional. Today, to mark the first day of the Christian year, we hold out hope like a flame in the night and in the wind. We dare to dismantle the walls between our dreams and our daily lives. We get to work once again in the face of overwhelming odds to feed another child; to dress another wound; to confront another system of oppression; to hold the hand of a loved one; to search the skies of our promises for the star that will lead us to you.

— *Sacred Seasons Advent/Christmastide 2023*,
a publication from Seeds of Hope Publishers

Choral Response

“When God Is a Child”

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Bryce Shelton

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Rosalie Beck

Hymn, No. 79

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Erin Conaway

Offertory

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

(CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM)
Gilbert M. Martin

Creator of the Stars of Night
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray You, hear us when we call.
(Latin, 9th century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851)

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology

(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Matt Rosencrans

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,

Many: Shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

One: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Many: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

One: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Many: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

One: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Many: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

One: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

“He Comes at Christmastide”

Robert H. Young

Medley and String Arrangements by Stephen M. Heyde

Veni, veni Emmanuel; Captivum solve Israel

Qui gemit in exilio, Privatus Dei Filio

Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel nascetur prote Israel!

O come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come desire of nations bind in one the hearts of all mankind.

Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A Babe is born all of a maid, to bring salvation unto us.

To Him we sing both night and day;

Veni creator Spiritus (Come, Creator Spirit)

At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the Child of Bliss now born was He,

And Him to serve, God give us grace;

O lux beata Trinitas. (O Trinity of Blessed Light)

There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free,

With gold and myrrh and frankincense;

A solis ortus cardine. (from the pivot of the sun's rising)

The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they
In the worship of that Child: *Gloria tibi Domine. (Glory to you, O Lord)*

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.
Love came down at Christmas.

Who is He in yonder stall, at whose feet the shepherds fall?
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story, 'tis the Lord, the King of glory.
At His feet we humbly fall; Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!
Who is He, who stands and weeps at the grave where Laz'rus sleeps?
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story, 'tis the Lord, the King of glory.
At His feet we humbly fall; Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!
Who is He in Cal'vry's throes, asks for blessings on His foes?
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story, 'tis the Lord, the King of glory.
At His feet we humbly fall; Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!
Who is He who from the grave comes to seek and help and save?
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story, 'tis the Lord, the King of glory.
At His feet we humbly fall; Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

The other night I saw a sight, a star as bright as day,
and e'er among a maiden sang," by-bye, by-bye lulay."
Mine own dear Son, whence are Thou come? Art Thou not God alway?
But n'ertheless I will not cease to sing, "By-bye lulay."
The angels bright, 'round Me shall light and guard Me night and day,
And in that sight thou may'st delight, to sing, "By-bye lulay."
Methinks of right the Lord of might should lie in rich array;
But n'ertheless I will not cease to sing, "By-bye, lulay."
Within thine arms thou'lt keep me warm and guard me night and day,
And if I weep and do not sleep, then sing, "By-bye lulay."

Gaudeamus! Gloria in excelsis Deo. (We rejoice! Glory to God in the highest)
Leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth
Transeamus. (Let us follow)

Silent Reflection

Hymn of Commitment, No. 96

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction

“There Is No Rose”

Robert H. Young
and Stephen M. Heyde

Postlude

“Sleepers, Wake” from *ST. PAUL*

Felix Mendelssohn

Today at Seventh

Orchestra

Violin

Amanda Schubert
Patricia Shih
Gustavo Reis

Ellen Bergeron

Nicholas Shih-Pogrebnoy

Alanna Schubert

Viola

Nikita Pogrebnoy
Gina Gravagne

Cello

Chris Martin

Jackie Bustos

Bass

Mark Whitney

Our Pianist today is Carolien Tantra.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Sally Lynn Askins.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in celebration of the first Sunday of Advent and for all Seventh does to make the holidays holy days.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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