



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT – DECEMBER 1, 2019
10:30 A.M.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.

**Please stand if able.*

The origin of bells in Christian worship can be traced to the ram's horns and silver trumpets used in the Old Testament to announce the beginning of a feast. In churches that are fortunate enough to have them, bells are rung just before the liturgy to call the people together.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

Certainly not the usual prelude offering you may be accustomed to, this arrangement playfully combines the 13th century carol, "Good King Wenceslas" with "The Nutcracker." Apologies to Peter I. Tchaikovsky.

The Advent wreath is perhaps the most common Advent symbol, and is also one of the most popular traditions in private homes. Each part of the Advent wreath symbolizes our spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes eternal life; the purple candles symbolize our repentance and waiting; the pink Advent candle symbolizes our joy that Christmas is coming soon. The white "Christ" candle, lit on Christmas Eve, symbolizes the coming of Jesus as "The Light of the World."

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

THE TRUE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS: Advent 2019

This Advent we are celebrating the "true sounds" of Christmas found that will never be found in the sounds of cash registers and the ringing of smart phones! The true sounds of Christmas are found in the lives we live with one another and with those we love. They are **HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE!**

You are encouraged as you gather in the sanctuary this year, *not* to sit down right away, but to go meet with others who are gathering. Share the true sounds of the season as we prepare to worship with one another!

"For Christians, **HOPE** is ultimately **HOPE** in Christ" (Frederick Buechner). "Christ" is a title that means "God's anointed," from the Hebrew "Messiah." What can it mean to have **HOPE** not simply in one human, Jesus Christ, but in *all* of God's anointed? How would **HOPE** sound then?

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

*WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

PRELUDE "Variations on Good King Wenceslas"

RICHARD ELLIOTT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Volk Family

Today we begin the season of Advent by lighting the first of five candles in our Advent wreath. Each candle this year will represent **THE TRUE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**

As Christians, we experience God as "Hope." God gives us "Hope" in the very act of creation. God speaks to us of "Hope" in the very person of Jesus. God offers us "Hope" in every day we live into God's will and Christ's Way. As we light our first candle let us consider how we, too, are God's Hope for the world.

Imagine someone pulling at your sleeve, half dragging you as they run through the crowd, saying over and over again, "Come!" We are told that patience is a virtue, but in this case, impatience is a beautiful thing. For who could stand by and wait when all we want to do is worship our Lord and Savior? This hymn invites us to sing with the angels, sing with our families, sing with our fellow believers, and with every fiber of our being, worship Christ the Lord.

In the presence of a Holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross, we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

We sing in thanksgiving for the gifts of forgiveness and new life.

We invite children to come to the front at this time.

This anthem was written during a time when the Manz' 3-year-old son was critically ill. They felt time was running out, so committed it to the Lord and said, 'Lord Jesus quickly come'. During this time, Ruth Manz had prepared some text for Paul based on the Book of Revelation. While at his son's bedside, Paul Manz began drafting the composition, which later became the current piece. Their son did recover, which the couple attributed to the power of prayer.

Dear God of Hope, give us this day the courage to find your creative Hope in our own life. Give us the courage to, like Jesus before us, claim our identity as your Hope Incarnate. May we, too, be a true sound of Christmas – Hope for all who live with darkness. May it be so. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELIS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Annie Weible

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near. Let us confess our sins:

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet You. We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of Your presence here already. We trust in things that pass away and forget Your eternal promise. Forgive us, God of hope. Strengthen us, by Your hand, so that we may experience you here and now, even as we wait for Christmas Day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, hear our silent prayers of return... *(a time of silence for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, HYMN NO. 2 (First Stanza)

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 earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Rev. Joel Weible

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Chancel Choir

“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

PAUL MANZ

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 2:2-4

(Page 631, OT, Pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE SOUND OF HOPE

Reverend Joel Weible

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

This Advent hymn references Isaiah 40:3-4, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. The "Brief Statement of Faith" was commissioned and accepted for inclusion in the "Book of Confessions." It celebrates the rediscovery that for all our diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

We bring to God our joys and concerns, praying for the world, the church and those close to us

"Masters in This Hall" (alternative title: "Nowell, Sing We Clear") is a Christmas carol written around 1860 by the English poet and artist William Morris.

"Doxology" literally means "words of glory." Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."

*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 13

"Prepare the Way"

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God and empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and faithful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and earth, saying: "Come Lord Jesus!"

TIME OF GIVING THANKS

CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
And the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Masters in This Hall"

D.R. EDWARDS

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise *Him, all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise *Him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host;
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who desire to follow Christ, remembering that access to the communion table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who has doubts or whose trust is wavering is invited to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

Laurentius Laurenti wrote our closing hymn based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matt. 25: 1-13). While the first two stanzas center on the expected coming of the bridegroom; stanza 3 is a prayer for Christ's return to complete the work of redemption.

This postlude is based on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. It calls the followers of Christ to be roused and alert for His Second Coming.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SEE INSERT

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 15

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Reverend Joel Weible

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

"Awake! Sleepers, Awake!"

DAVID CHERWIEN

PLEASE NOTE: Food and drinks are not allowed in the Sanctuary