

Come, Lord Jesus:

SSP Holy Communion in Advent

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

Opening Rites

A blessed Advent Season to everyone! Today, we start a new church calendar year reliving the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and His church.

Just before we celebrate His birth on Christmas, we will be observing four weeks of reflection and anticipation reminding ourselves that, just as Christ came that first Christmas night, He will come again soon to deliver God's judgment and bring us who belong to Him into His renewed creation.

This is comfort for us who long for His appearing. As the prophet Isaiah says:

Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted His people. (*Isaiah 52.9*)

Opening Song and Procession

21 - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

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

Verse 2

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict'r'y o'er the grave.

Verse 3

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
O drive away the shades of night
And pierce the clouds and bring us light.

“請來請來，以馬內利”

1 請來請來，以馬內利，
救贖以色列衆子兒，
伊受遷移矢志傷心，
舉頭盼望聖子降臨。

和：歡喜，歡喜，以馬內利，
以色列啊，主要來臨。

2 請來請來，耶西根枝，
釋放撒但手內百姓，
救咱脫離地獄永死，
免得死亡永遠勝利。

3 請來請來，大闢鎖匙，
恩典的門已經大開，
通天的路為咱預備，
當信靠祂不免訝疑。

Prayers of Penitence

Celebrant

Let us kneel and pray.

Celebrant

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In His light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins using the Confession of Sin.

All

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5 (*page 590 of pew Bibles*)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²Now it shall come to pass in the latter days

That the mountain of the LORD's house
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,
And shall be exalted above the hills;
And all nations shall flow to it.

³Many people shall come and say,

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
And we shall walk in His paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
And shall rebuke many people;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵ O house of Jacob, come and let us walk
In the light of the LORD.

After each reading

The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

After each reading

The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Advent Lighting

Rector

It is the Advent Season again and we carry on with our tradition of lighting the Advent Candles during the Sunday services leading to Christmas Day.

Each Sunday of Advent recalls for us one specific virtue that is rightly associated with the first coming and the return of Christ. These virtues recall to us how we are to conduct ourselves as we wait for the return of Christ.

Our first virtue this week is HOPE and we have our Vestry Executive Committee to do the honors of reading for us the Advent lesson and lighting the first candle.

Representatives

We have gone through a lot this year that may have robbed us of our hope—loss of security, loss of health, loss of loved ones, and loss of community. Even in the years to come, challenges are in every corner always looking to make us despair.

But through Jesus Christ, we have HOPE that is unshakeable, more wonderful than anything, and is eternal. The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 1:3-6 and 13:

“3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

The first candle is lit.

As we prepare to face a new year, await the return of Christ, and continue to face the woes of this world, may we never lose hope. All glory to God! Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, as we observe the Advent season at this time of the year, we are thankful because You have showered us with Your exceedingly abundant grace. Thank You for the forgiveness of our sins, and allowing us believers to be partakers of Your eternal kingdom. Help us to live each day according to Your will charged by the hope of eternal life with You. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (cf Isaiah 40.3–5)

The holy Gospel of our coming King, according to Matthew 24:37-44

All Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Matthew 24:37-44 (*page 858 of pew Bibles*)

³⁷But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

and at the end

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praises be to Thee, O Christ.

The Sermon by Ptr. Aileen Fung

Affirmation of Faith

This, or a creed or other authorized Affirmation of Faith is used

We say together in faith:

All Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All for by His will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All for with His blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for Your holy catholic Church;

That we may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You;

That Your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of Your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in Your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We praise you for Your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in Your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence is kept.

The celebrant concludes with this prayer

Lord of the Church, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

The Peace

The Celebrant may use either one of the following introductions

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

Celebrant Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Offertory

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

#339 - "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

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Assigned to Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, help me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

“寶貝主，牽我手”

- 1 寶貝主，牽我手，
助我站，導我行！
我疲倦，我憂煩，我軟弱；
經風暴，過黑夜，
導我行，進光明；
寶貝主，牽我手，到天庭。
- 2 我道路，漸淒涼，
主臨近，慰憂傷！
我生命，在主手，掌握中；
我呼求，我祈禱，
扶持我，免跌倒；
寶貝主，牽我手，常引導。

Once the offerings have been brought forward, the following offertory sentence or similar is sung or said,

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because You sent Your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in Him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold His appearing.

Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of Your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: in Your infinite love You made us in Your image; and when we fell into sin and became subject to evil and death, You, in Your mercy sent Jesus Christ, Your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us.

He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself in obedience to Your will, a perfect sacrifice for all mankind, to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.

In the absence of a priest, the Celebrant may skip this portion.

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when He had given thanks to You, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of Me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer You these gifts, recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Sanctify them by Your Holy Spirit to be for Your people the Body and Blood of Your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve You in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ. All honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, Son, Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept, during which the Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Celebrant Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

People Let us rejoice and exult and give the glory to the Lord.

Prayer of Humble Access

Most merciful Lord, we do not trust in our own merits to come to Your table, but in Your boundless grace. You have invited us to come to the table of the Kingdom of Heaven. Help us to partake of the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may ever-more live in Him, and He in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

All

Loving Father, your Son Jesus Christ has come to us in word and Spirit, in bread and cup. Make us holy and bring us to perfection, when we stand before Him as he comes to judge the living and the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

These words may be said

Our Lord says, I am coming soon.

All Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when He comes, find us watching and waiting.

All Amen.

The Blessing

May God Himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy; and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all now and forever. Amen.

Announcements

1. This is the third official announcement of Vestry Candidates for the year 2023.

1. Chua, <u>Lilan</u>	潘麗蘭	7. Te, Roger	戴禹順
2. Chung, Dianne	蔡淑愉	8. Ting, Jerry	張子岱
3. Go, Susana	吳鈺琳	9. Tio, Danny	趙森林
4. <u>Khu, Shaira</u>	邱心雯	10. Uy, Christian	黃國華
5. Lim, <u>Luisito</u>	林永中	11. Uy, <u>Fely</u>	黃珊珊
6. <u>Tacuboy, Sydney</u>	許文龍	12. Yu, <u>Joniño</u>	楊忠國

We will be doing our usual onsite elections this year but, in consideration of the unvaccinated, those who are high risk for covid, and those who are sick, we will be allowing mail-in ballots for this year.

Those who cannot come on December 4 for the said reasons may call our church office by tomorrow, November 28 to say that you will vote by mail-in and if you will come personally or your authorized representative.

Mail-In Voters may come personally and vote on the spot. Those who will vote from home must bring their sealed ballots back to the church office.

Deadline for voting and submission is on December 3 (Saturday) 5:00PM.

Let us continue to pray for ourselves as we discern who to vote for in the upcoming election.

2. Church Camp 2023. Registration ongoing.
3. For the last time, we will be asking those who haven't answered the December 24 survey yet to fill up the forms found in the attendance booklet. This is to help us get an idea on how much refreshments we will need to prepare for our Christmas Eve Service. Let's take a few minutes to do so again.

We praise God for this time of worship and we hope to see everyone again next week. Let's now rise to sing our closing song.

Closing Song

#10 - "God Will Take Care Of You"

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Chorus:

God will take care of you,
Through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

Postlude

“上帝在照顧你”

- 1 好壞境遇都免驚惶，
上帝在照顧你，
站主翼下實在安定，
上帝在照顧你。
- 和：上帝在照顧你，
夜日看顧，夜日導路，
上帝在照顧你，
上帝在照顧你。
- 2 為主做工不須失志，
上帝在照顧你，
路途崎嶇危險那時，
上帝在照顧你。
- 3 凡有所欠不須罣慮，
上帝在照顧你，
因為天父極大富有，
上帝在照顧你。