



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH *in* FRISCO (PCA)
A Service of the Word, Prayer and the Lord's Supper
Lord's Day, December 4, 2022

Reflections for Worship

*As we celebrate Christ's **first advent** and await his **second advent** yet in the future, the Advent wreath is our visual calendar to mark the Sundays before Christmas Eve. Consider the various symbols in the wreath: the greenery that symbolizes new life that we have through life in Jesus; the red berries, symbolizing the blood he shed to give us life; candles in a circle rather than a straight line symbolizing the endlessness of time. But Christ invaded time at a point over 2000 years ago and we will live with him eternally. The pure white Christ candle stands in the center, for Jesus is the center of time and of our world, a shining light in all places and at all times.*

Along with the HOPE candle that burns from last Sunday, today we light the LOVE candle.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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***Call to Worship¹**

from Isaiah 63: 7–9, 16–17

Minister: I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

People: For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them, in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all day.

Minister: Today, we light the LOVE candle as a sign of the light of love from Christ. We observe the full revelation of God's love in his first Advent to our world, in his personal Advent into our

¹ We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His invitation and command to us to gather in His name.
* = Please stand if able

hearts and lives, and in his anticipated second Advent when his love will restore this world to his kingdom.

People: You, O LORD, are our Father. Our Redeemer from of old is your name. Return for the sake of your servants, the people of your heritage.

***Song of Praise²**

"Advent Hymn"

Nockles

1. Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the everlasting light,
The Son of Righteousness arise
And triumph o'er these shades of night.
2. And come Thou long awaited One
In the fullness of Your love,
And loose this heart bound up by shame
And I will never be the same.
- CH: So here I wait in hope of You,
All my soul's longing through and through.
And Day-spring from on high, be near
And Day-star in my heart appear.
3. And dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born.
And joyless is the evening song
Until Emmanuel has come.

***Song of Praise**

"How Great Our Joy"

Traditional

1. While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.
- CH: How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
(Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!)
2. There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a child today.
3. There shall the child lie in a stall,
This child who shall redeem us all.
4. This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

***Prayer of Adoration**

NT Reading

Hebrews 11: 3–11

² All songs covered by or used under CCLI License #3086324

Call to Confession

We acknowledge our sin.

We thank you that by your grace you have delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Yet Lord, we confess how easily we are allured towards other masters. We acknowledge the ways we seek our own selfish purposes rather than those of your kingdom. We foolishly attempt to tell ourselves that we can serve both you and money, although you tell us otherwise. Forgive us through the death and resurrection of your Son who loved us and gave himself for us. By your Spirit, make us generous, kingdom-minded people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

As you confess your sins, pray that the Holy Spirit would more and more awaken your desires to the beauty of Christ.

Offer of Forgiveness through Christ

We receive his grace.

Hear what sweet words of comfort the Lord gives to those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ~Isaiah 9: 2

***Song of Rejoicing** "Whate'er My God Ordains is Right" Winkworth, Merker, Rodigast

Whate'er my God ordains is right,
His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er He does,
And follow where He guideth.
He is my God, though dark my road.
He holds me that I shall not fall;
And so to Him I leave it all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right,
He never will deceive me.
He leads me by the proper path,
I know He will not leave me.
I take, content, what He has sent,
His hand can turn my griefs away;
And patiently I wait His day.

Whate'er my God ordains is right,
Though now this cup in drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart,
I take it all, unshrinking.
My God is true, each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right,
Here shall my stand be taken;
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
Yet I am not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there;
He holds me that I shall not fall,
And so to Him I leave it all.

Affirmation of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. #33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, where he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. #34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

Q. #35. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

Worship by Giving

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. ~1 Chronicles 16: 29

Prayers for Christ's Church & World

"Our Father which 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" (Matthew 6: 9–13, KJV).

The Greeting

OT Reading

Sermon

Ups and Downs in the Hands of God

Genesis 29: 1–30

Rev. Patrick Poteet

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper³

Invitation to Lord's Table

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Matthew 26: 26–30

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Song

"Hope of the Ages"

Fournier/Romanacce/Althoff

³The bread and juice you see on the Communion table may not look like much to the casual observer. In fact, it is merely bread and juice. What makes this meal special is that the Lord Jesus Christ is spiritually present in a unique way. This sacrament is not something to be taken lightly; neither is it a time to be somber. Rather, we should be filled with thankfulness and joy. Our Savior, out of His great mercy, bids His people to come to this meal. If you are a member of a church who embraces the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are at peace with your fellow Christians, we welcome you to this meal. Come and consider with us our Lord's body and shed blood symbolized in the bread and juice. Rejoice with us in our union with Him and with each other as His Covenant people. For those not taking Communion today, we encourage you to carefully consider the claims of Christ, that you would repent and believe the Good News of the Gospel, and we look forward to the day when you may join us in this meal.

1. The prophets had glimpsed,
And the angels had watched with awe
The unfolding plans of our faithful, redeeming God.
What they longed for we have seen;
What was promised we believe.

Ch: Hope of the Ages, Isaiah's Great Light,
Abraham's offspring,
Blessing of Jacob, Judah's might.
Hope of the Ages, David's true Son,
Desire of nations, promised salvation.
God with us.

2. The vision once clouded
Has now to our hearts appeared.
Once shrouded in myst'ry,
Redemption has been made clear.
Our Messiah now has come;
Word made Flesh, the Saving One.

BR: All hail the One
Now revealed to the world
In Bethlehem born
To a young, virgin girl.
Lamb without blemish
Yet cruelly betrayed,
Who cried, "It is finished,"
And rose from the grave.
The Father's great gift
And the proof of His love,
Hope of the Ages,
Our God here with us.

***Benediction**

Postlude