

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

REFLECTION *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent."

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF CANDLE

The Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55

LEADER My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on
the humble estate of his servant.

ALL **For behold, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty
has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

LEADER And his mercy is for those who fear him from
generation to generation.

ALL **He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty
from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

LEADER He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful. Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels:

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

LEADER God of salvation,
in Christ you have done great things:
our hearts are filled with joy.
By your power you lifted us
out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter
into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.

ALL **But we confess that often we try
to replace your gift with our own efforts.
We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.
Forgive us in Jesus' name, Amen.**

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

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, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-Spring
Come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

GRACE ASSURANCE *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

LEADER The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute
justice and righteousness in the land.
In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called:
“The Lord is our righteousness.”

ALL **Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose coming we announce in this season,
is our righteousness.
In Christ, we are made right with God.
Thanks be to God!**

ALL THINGS NEW

Come, Lord, and tarry not;
Bring the long looked for day;
O why these years of waiting here,
These ages of decay?

Come, for Thy saints still wait;
Daily ascends their sigh;
The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come”;
Does Thou not hear the cry?

O come and make all things new!
Come and make all things new!
Build up this ruined earth
Come and make all things new.

Come, for creation groans,
Impatient of Thy stay,
Worn out with these long years of ill,
These ages of delay.

Come, for love waxes cold,
Its steps are faint and slow;
Faith now is lost in unbelief,
Hope’s lamp burns dim and low.

Come and make all things new;
Build up this ruined earth;
Restore our faded Paradise,
Creation’s second birth.

Come, and begin Thy reign
Of everlasting peace;
Come, take the kingdom to Thyself,
Great King of Righteousness.

OFFERINGS

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the number 84321.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE & WELCOME TABLE

MESSAGE *Mark 1:1-8*

Behold: He is Mightier

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Jesus, you are my greatest desire. You alone satisfy my
longings. Today I cannot come to the Lord’s Supper
with my church family, where you promise to be in a
special way. I long to return to your table. I still come
to you in faith, along with all your people across the
world who are facing the same longing. I turn from all
false loves and false trusts, and commune with you
spiritually. Lord, thank you for your promise that
nothing can separate us from your love: neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor
depth, nor any other creature. Amen. partaking of your
sacrament.*

HE WHO IS MIGHTY

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death’s shadow
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone

Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born

He Who is mighty has done a great thing
Taken on flesh, conquered death’s sting
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame
Holy is His name

Oh, the freedom our Savior won
The yoke of sin has been broken
Once a slave, now by grace
No more condemnation

Now my soul magnifies the Lord
I rejoice in the God Who saves
I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days

BENEDICTION | *2 Peter 3:13-15*