
Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship¹

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2008

** Please stand if you are able.*

Prelude

Greetings & Life of the Church

Meditation

O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!
May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt.
But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all
the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

-- Psalm 71: 14-17

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If
anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;
and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you
abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it
will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much
fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

-- John 15:5-8

Prayer

God Gathers His People ...

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

-- Isaiah 12:5-6

**Angels We Have Heard on High*

#214

**Invocation & Lord's Prayer*

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come; Thy will be done in 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.

Amen²

God Tunes the Heart of His People ...

... by Opening Our Mouths to Sing Christ Our Savior ...

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are
keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing: 'Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for
you: 'Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:

'Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

... resulting in Praise to our God through Christ our Lord

**O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#201

Choral Response

Whisper! Whisper!

... God Teaches His People...

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Message

The Promise of Restoration

**There is a Redeemer*

Insert

Celebration of Communion

God's People Respond to His Word by Faith...

**Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise him, all creatures here below!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen

We Offer Ourselves & Our Resources to Him

God Sends His People ...

** ... with Rejoicing*

Silent Night! Holy Night!, #210

** ... and the Benediction³ of His Grace*

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine
upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and
give you peace so that all the peoples may say,

Congregation: "Amen! Our LORD is faithful!" Praise the LORD.

¹ "Worship" is not something that WE initiate; not primarily something that WE do for
GOD; rather, God calls us to worship as a means of His grace by which to shape and tune
US to declare and display HIS glory in Christ for HIS pleasure and our good.

² "Amen" grows from the Hebrew root meaning "true and faithful;" we pray with hope
and confidence because our covenant God is "true and faithful" to his covenant promises.

³ "Benediction" is the "good Word" of God's blessing by which He secures, sustains and
equips his people by his steadfast, covenantal love in Christ for the display of His glory

For Individual & Family Worship
Fourth Week of Advent, December 21, 2008

("Advent Devotions" taken from Covenant Magazine. Visit www.LivingChrist360.com each Friday for meditations on the Scripture passages for that week.)

Scripture Reading:

Monday: Luke 1:5-38

Tuesday: Luke 1:39-80; Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday: John 1:1-14

Thursday: Christmas Morning – Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12

Friday: Luke 4:1-15

Saturday: Matthew 4:12-15

Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard on High (Trinity, #214)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing over the plains, and
the mountains in reply echo back
their joyous strains:
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why
your joyous strains prolong? Say
what may the tidings be, which
inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him
whose birth the angels sing; come,
adore on bended knee Christ the
Lord, the newborn King!

Prayer in Fellowship with the Church:

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says, 'He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head.' For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the Son of man, so that human beings might in their turn become children and heirs of God? Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.. Amen.

-- Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)

CVPC CONTACT INFORMATION

... if the Body of Christ @ CVPC may be praying for or otherwise serving you, please call ...

Session

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The Candles Of Advent

Starting the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, the season of Advent is when we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world as a tiny baby born in Bethlehem. Advent candles provide a guide through these weeks, sharing with us the messages of our salvation in Jesus

Be enlightened! One candle glows the first week of Advent, then two, three and four are lit in the weeks following. As we watch the light of candles glow and grow each week, we are reminded that our souls are being enlightened as well by the message of this season: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). Jesus, who is our Light, comes into our world and continues to dispel the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

Get ready! Advent is when we "prepare the way for the Lord" (Mark 1:3). The candles serve as signals to us to brighten things up around our home and our church in preparation for Jesus' entry into our midst. Just as the brides demonstrated their expectation of the bridegroom's arrival, our work to decorate is one way to demonstrate our expectation of our Guest's arrival which brings rejoicing and celebration!

Wait and see! The Advent candles provide us with a way to count the weeks until Christmas. They subtly teach us that waiting is a part of the process of God's unfolding plan. "At just the right time, God sent his Son," Galatians 4:4 says. Advent helps us remember that we are living in God's time, not our own.

Gather Round! The candles of Advent (most often arranged in the form of a circle) beckon us to gather round to worship and pray, to give thanks and sing, to read God's Word together and share our experiences. We do this when we come to church on Sunday mornings and when we sit around the dinner table with family and friends. The candles of Advent make us realize how important it is to love one another as God has loved us in Christ, our Lord.

Poinsettias for the decoration of the sanctuary during the weeks of Advent are given with thanksgiving for the glory and faithfulness of our God through Jesus Christ as displayed in the lives of His children:

Bishop Henry & Downs Henry

Irene Cox & Bishop Henry

Guy Stonecypher & Clark Blaylock

Maxine "Mackie" McGregor

Henry & Terry Thomason

Raymond Campbell

Charles & Lillie Morse

Charles Jr & Jane Morse

Luke Michal

Lynda Henry

Henry Thomason & Terry Thomason

... given with thanksgiving by

Juanita Henry

Edward Henry

Macie Stonecypher

Todd Keith

Wayne & Claude Burke

Ron Campbell

Hilda Morse

Hilda Morse

John & Barb Michal

Edward Henry

Claudene Thomason Burke

Welcome to

CHATTANOOGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

By God's Grace, For God's Glory

*... to see Chattanooga Valley and the Nations
overwhelmed by the glory of God and transformed by the grace and
peace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
working in His people empowered by His Spirit for His glory.*

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