



First Reformed Church, Schenectady

In-person worship has been placed on pause. While you worship at home, feel free to sing!

Third Sunday In Advent

December 13, 2020

Liturgist: Daniel Carlson

Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden

Church Musician: Max Caplan

PRELUDE

Arabesque No. 1

Claude Debussy

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of coronavirus. We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season Advent, when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

We light the candles of hope and peace.

**We now light the candle of joy
in spite of missing so many things
we thought were essential to a merry Christmas:
shopping, parties, photos with Santa, Christmas visits
and chances to hug the people we love.**

God's joy ignites embers under loss and sorrow
and brightens the path to love.

**Emmanuel, God with us, God coming among us,
in the week to come kindle the wick of our lives with hope,
peace and joy so that we may shine within your world. Amen.**

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing:
all dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**God of darkening days and coming light,
You call us to “advent” our lives:
to be disturbed;
to wait and wait and wait and wait;
to keep awake, alert, uneasy, alive
for what we cannot yet see.**

**It is so hard for us.
When we grow impatient,
when we fall asleep,
when we are hopeless, restless, unloving, joyless,
have mercy. Forgive us. Try us again. Amen.**

GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*hummed to tune #1*)

By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Our Song of Hope*)

**In each year and in every place
we expect the coming of Christ's Spirit.
As we listen to the world's concerns,
hear the cry of the oppressed,
and learn of new discoveries,
God will give us knowledge,
teach us to respond with maturity,
and give us courage to act with integrity.**

**Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (*spoken and signed*)

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Claude Debussy

Prelude No. 1, Book I (Danseuses de Delphes)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Schenectady County Re-entry Program
Center for Community Justice

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SECOND LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON

"Joy in Troubled Waters"

MUSICAL OFFERING

Claude Debussy

Prelude No. 8, Book I (La fille aux cheveux de lin)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(unison)*

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.

CLOSING HYMN

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, O Flower of Jesse’s Root,
before whom all the world stands mute
We trust your mighty pow’r to save
and give us vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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Prayers of the People

We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember our church members who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Harold W. Lapham, Dee Gravink,
Adeline Graham, Peg Norton, Ruth
Arthur, Paul L. Abbey

Church Offerings

As we worship virtually, we continue to welcome your offerings to support the ministry of First Reformed Church! All types of church offerings, including this year’s Christmas Offering to Center for Community Justice, may be made online at 1streformed.com, dropped off during office hours or mailed. Thank you!

