

Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice



First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Advent Worship with Communion
Sunday, December 1, 2024

*We continually experience incompleteness,
and await, hope, expect.*

*We wait for some
realization, fulfillment, salvation.*

Opening Sentences

- The day of the Lord is surely coming; the promise of God will be fulfilled.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship –

The prophet said, “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.”

We want to live in a way to prepare for the coming of Christ.

How shall we do that?

Let the writer of the psalms teach us.

Let us know your ways; guide us to walk in your paths.

Help us to find the truth; teach us, O God of our salvation.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1-2, 6-7

GG #88

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 Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, 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, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,
your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our judge and Savior,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We gather as a people of Hope.

Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for thousands of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.

Our hope springs anew from an ancient vision.

As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.

The Candle of Hope is lit.



Act of Praise

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout, v. 1

GG #100

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

The Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and our strength,
by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophets

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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. 15 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. 16 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."

Anthem

Gospel Reading

[Jesus said] "There will be signs in the sun; the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust. ...

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Good and upright is the LORD;

instructing sinners in the way, leading the humble in what is right,

and teaching the poor the way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness

for those who keep God's covenants and decrees.

Hymn

Love Has Come

GG #110

Love has come; a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother;

what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.

Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Invitation to the Offering

Rejoicing in the Lord always,
we give thanks for the Word made flesh.
With grateful hearts,
let us offer our whole selves to God
as we bring our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

My Soul Cries Out, v. 2

GG #100

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

*Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God,
in faith and hope we offer our gifts
of time, talent, and treasure,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You formed us in your image
and set us in this world to love and serve you.
When we were captives in slavery,
you delivered us to freedom,
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.
When we were stubborn and stiff-necked,
you spoke to us through prophets
who looked for that day when justice shall triumph
and peace shall reign over all the earth.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever proclaim the glory of your name:
Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son.
You sent him into this world
to bring freedom to the captives of sin,
and to establish justice for the oppressed.
He came among us as one of us,
taking the lot of the poor,
sharing human suffering,
dying an unjust death.

We rejoice that in his dying and rising again,
you set before us the sure promise of new life,
the certain hope of a heavenly home
where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. / Christ is risen. / Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor
and loose the chains that bind.
Keep us faithful in your service
until that day when
we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Let us pray as Christ has taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Let us eat.
The cup of the new covenant sealed in Christ.
Let us drink.

Prayer after Communion

Good and gracious God,
as you have been with us
in this holy meal,
be with us in our daily bread.
Help us to be with others
in the name of the one who says,
“I am with you always,”
Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Hymn For the Bread Which You Have Broken GG #516

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore you seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord,

In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response *My Soul Cries Out, refrain*

*Refrain: My heart shall sing
 of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears,
 for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.*

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC McAllen Contact Information: 104 S. 12th Street; McAllen, TX 78501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505

Church phone: 956-682-2836

website: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

Pastor: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com

Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net