

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Order of Service for the Worship of God

November 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE *The King Shall Come!* ~ David N. Johnson Ben Heizer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Tell Out, My Soul* Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 33: 20-22; 71: 5, 8, 14-15b

L: Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. Yes, our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

P: Let your steadfast love be upon us, O LORD, even as we hope in you.

L: For you, O Lord, are my hope; my trust, O LORD, from my youth. My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.

P: I will hope continually, and I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, and of your deeds of salvation, all the day.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching 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, forever and ever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Bulletin Insert

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Hope: ~ The Mayer Family

SUNG RESPONSE: O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
verse 2, #245 in hymnal

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.



UNISON PRAYER ~ Dear God, our world is in darkness, and we need the light of hope to shine. Help us to prepare our lives and our homes to receive the One who said, "I am the light of the world." We pray in the name of Christ our Lord; Amen.

CHILDREN'S LESSON (*Preschool through 2nd grade children may be led to Junior Church following the children's message. Older children's bulletins are in the vestibule.*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Eternal Lord, you are God of the future, as well as the past and present, and you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected or prepared for your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, hold grudges, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ returns to judge the world. (*Silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM *Come Down, Lord* ~ Stan Pethel Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Joel 1:15; 2: 1-2, 10-13 ~ Pages 786-787 in the pew Bible

Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his host is exceedingly great; he that executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? "Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of harsh punishment.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Mark 13: 19-27, 32-37 ~ Page 882 in the pew Bible

[Jesus said] "For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will be. And if the Lord had not shortened the days, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. And then if any one says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. False Christs and false prophets will arise and show signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; I have told you all things beforehand. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great

power and glory. And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the door-keeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch.”

*HYMN *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* #754

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ 2 Peter 3: 8-10, 13-15a, 18 ~ pp. 1063-64 in pew Bible

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen!

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “The Beginning of Advent” Rev. Frank Wyche

*HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #244

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *Savior of the Nations, Come* ~ Helmut Walcha

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (...debtors/debtors...)

*HYMN *The King Is Coming* **Bulletin Insert**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Allegro Maestoso* ~ G.F. Handel Ben Heizer

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

First Sunday
in Advent



*Christ has come; Christ has died
Christ is risen, Christ will come again*



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